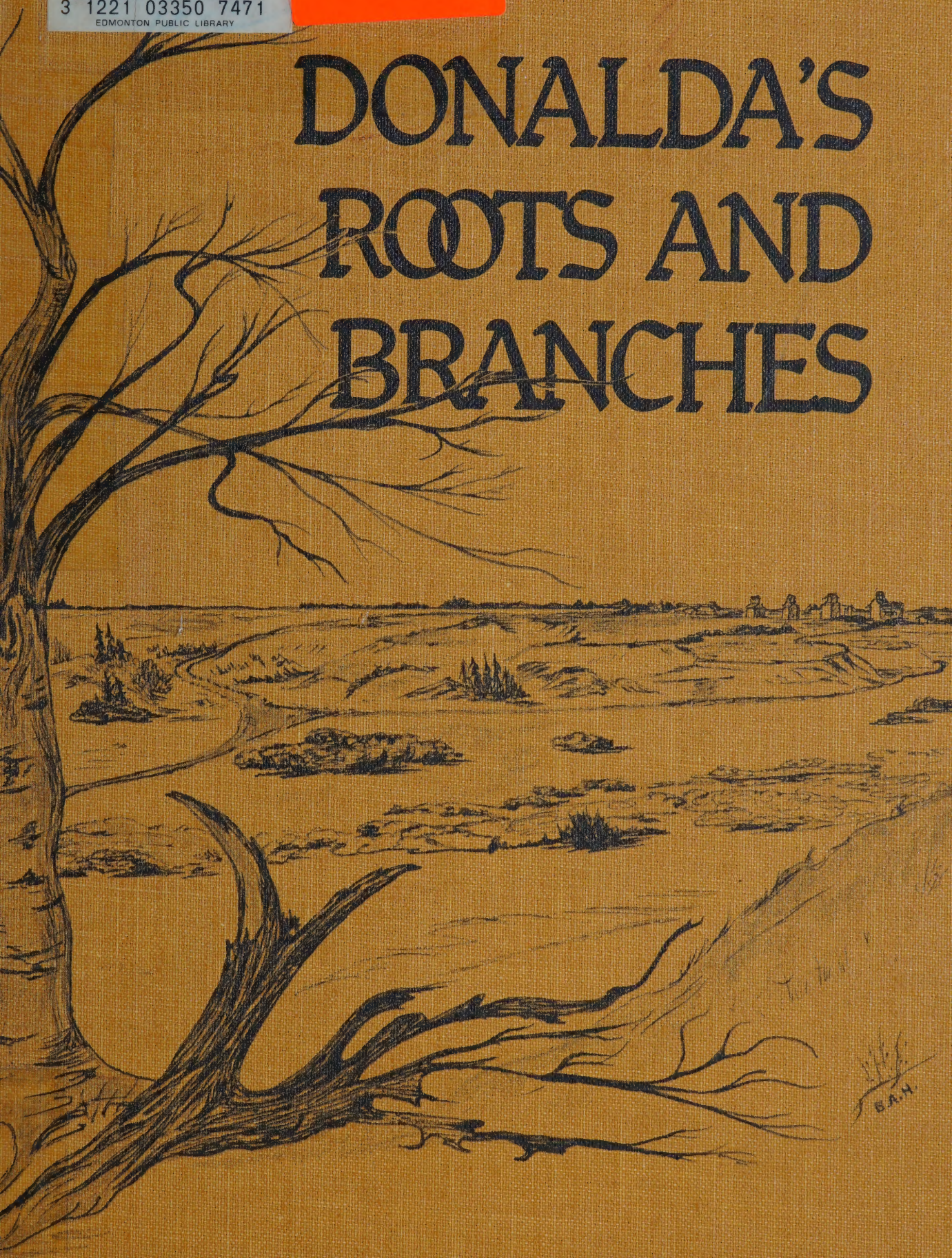




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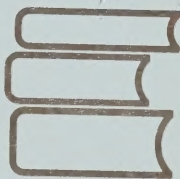
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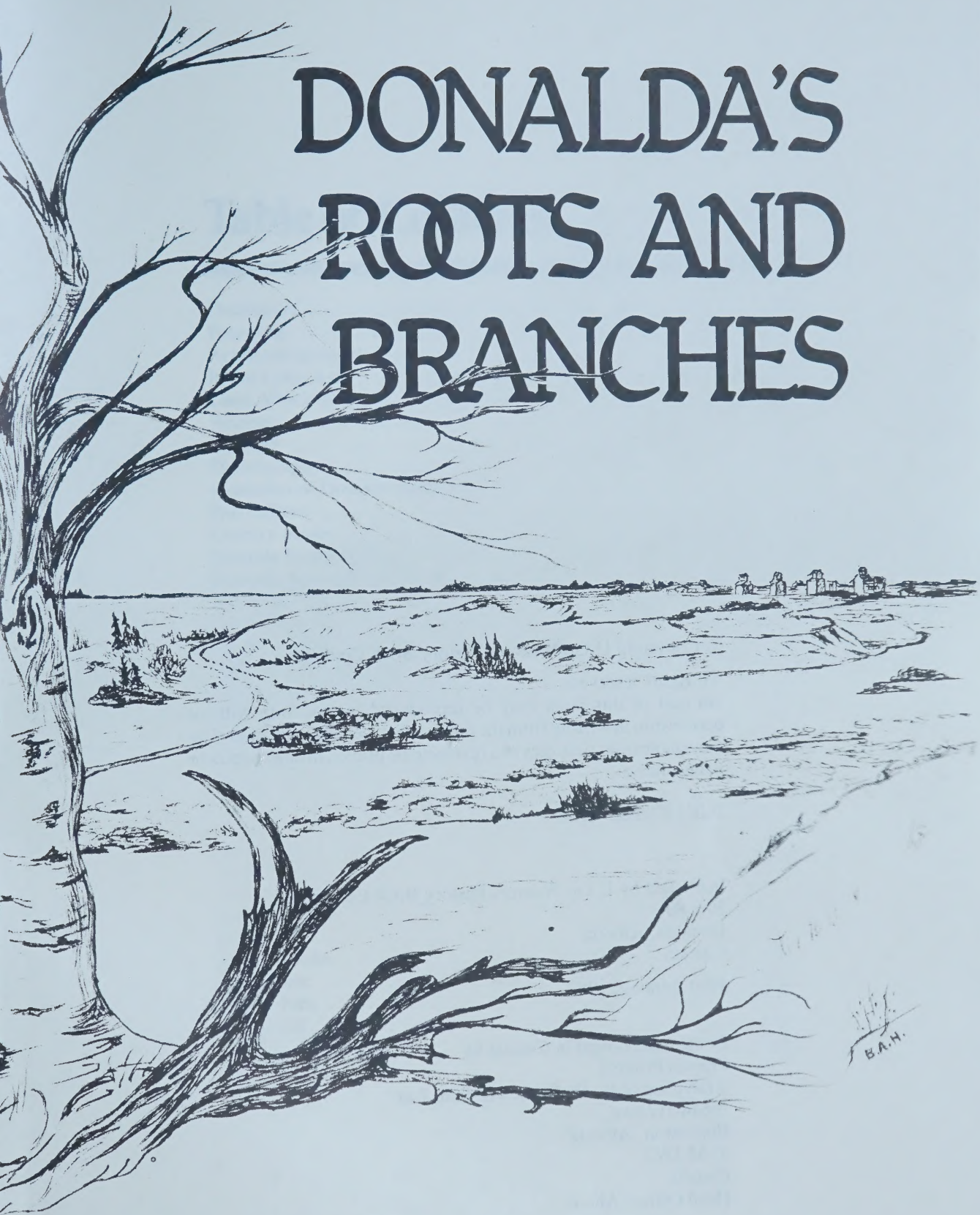
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DONALDA'S ROOTS AND BRANCHES



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Table of Contents

Dedication	iv
Foreword	v
Acknowledgements	v
In the Long Ago	1
Land Allocation	2
Weather	5
Geology	6
Physiography	7
Memories of Donalda (Dempsey)	9
Post Offices	11
Country Stores	14
Donalda Newspapers	18
Donalda Agricultural Society	18
Entertainment	20
Sports Pictures	22
Poem — Alberta — by L. C. Hayes	28
Village of Donalda	29
Poem — Somebody's Home	100
Buena Vista	101
Centennial	125
Donalda Rural	133
Ferry Point	149
Glen Park	163
Ibsen	185
Norbo	235
Poplar Grove	303
Science Mound	317
Seven Nations	353
Skybo	373
Spruce Coulee	413
Up-To-Date	479
Willow Park	497
Honor Roll	529
Index	548

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the trailblazers and pioneers whose courage, stamina and faith contributed so greatly in the development of our Alberta.



Alberta's Diamond Jubilee

Foreword

Our first aim was to update and expand the volume “Fifty Years on the Coulee Rim”. Our material should have been recorded many years ago and is presented here in the hope that we may help to preserve the remaining local history. Most of our pioneers are gone now leaving us with only the memories — in some cases poignant entries in a diary, or facts in a family Bible. Sometimes we could only find a name on an old tax roll or on a marker in a cemetery.

We have sincerely tried to assemble a true history. We apologize for the errors and omissions but in a project of this kind they are inevitable. We have done our best and trust our readers will overlook where we have fallen short.

There is something in this book for everyone, for those seeking facts we have facts. For those who enjoy stories, there are many of these and for those looking for errors — happy hunting.

Acknowledgements

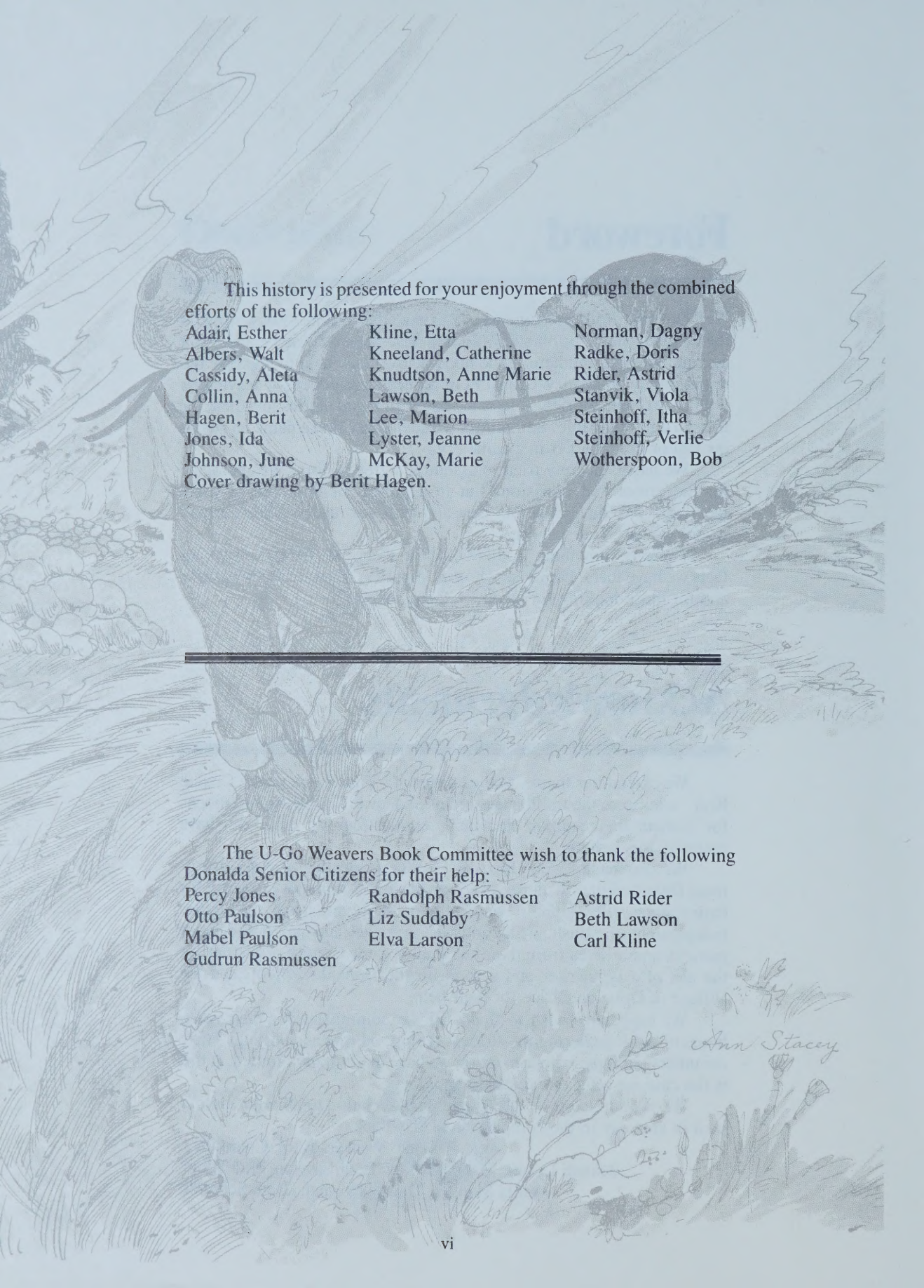
We extend our thanks to the editors of “Fifty Years on the Coulee Rim” who were the trailblazers in this endeavor. To our senior citizens for without their support and their recollections we could not have prepared this volume.

We also thank “New Horizons” for their help, the Alberta Government Department of Culture, the Donalda and Community Council for their support, the Glenbow Foundation for supplying maps, the Stettler Independent, the Bashaw Star and the Camrose Canadian for the use of pictures and articles from their publications, the County of Stettler for the use of a typewriter and a room in the Donalda School, and the Village of Donalda Office for their help.

We especially wish to thank all the committees for their many hours of work gathering the stories, typing, editing and sorting. There are others perhaps, whose mention we have unwittingly omitted. If this is the case we offer our sincerest apologies.

We wish to express our sincerest appreciation to all who contributed in any way to the compilation of this book.

U-Go Weavers Book Committee,
Jeanne Lyster, Marie McKay, Beth Lawson, Etta Kline,
Viola Stanvik, Dagny Norman, Beth Schmidt.



This history is presented for your enjoyment through the combined efforts of the following:

Adair, Esther
Albers, Walt
Cassidy, Aleta
Collin, Anna
Hagen, Berit
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Cover drawing by Berit Hagen.

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Liz Suddaby

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Astrid Rider

Beth Lawson

Carl Kline

Ann Stacey

Donalda

In the Long Ago

To our Pioneers we owe the development of our Country. They had the courage to leave their homes, old friends, and families to face unknown hardships in coming to build homes, roads, railroads, schools, villages, and towns in an undeveloped land. They suffered much to conquer untamed elements in a new country. In so doing, they made a wonderful land for their succeeding generations to enjoy. Many of the present generations are trying to find the yesterday of their parents, and grandparents and adopt it for themselves. That was a time of looking excitedly toward the future when everything had not been invented yet, when there was some feeling of adventure, some reason for being ambitious and wanting to get some place. Children of today have been robbed of the drama — the longing hope, sacrifice and excited anticipation of obtaining anything new in the home through today's affluence and installment buying.

Let us describe life in the homes in the early days, when families would have to chop wood, haul water and build a fire before they could eat or bathe or even have clean clothes.

The kitchen was the family room, for here practically every activity occurred — cooking, eating, washing, ironing, sewing, and also used for a shoe repair shop. The big black range with its plump arched feet, nickle plated scrolls and curlicues, cooked the meals, baked the bread in the large oven and heated the room as well as the flat irons with which clothes were ironed. It also heated the water for home use — either on top of the stove or in a reservoir. This reservoir was attached to the side of the range, was filled with water dipped from the well by a bucket attached to a rope running over a suspended pulley.

As the years sped by, a cistern was used to catch the water from the rain and snow, and this required the use of a cistern pump, usually situated at the side of the kitchen sink. They were often so dry and gasping that you had to prime it with sips of water

from a pitcher, then grab its squatty handle and pump fast before it would gurgle and bring up spurts of water.

Second in importance to the kitchen range that crackled and whispered away, was the large kitchen table of oak, sometimes round, sometimes square, covered by an oilcloth. Here on this table the bread dough was made and later the place to set the most appetizing loaves of baked bread to cool. The kitchen table was used for many other labors — where children spread out their homework books and treasures of rock, wild flowers, paper dolls, etc.

Then when the days work was completed, this table drew the family around it for the pleasure and comfort of each other's company. This was family fun time. Parents were not always off at parties and meetings leaving their children with baby sitters. Baby sitters were unheard of. If the parents simply had to go somewhere, the children were never excluded from their activities.

Another kitchen character was the brown varnished ice box in a few homes, especially in villages where ice was sold. Off the kitchen a little pantry held most of the food supply and often the dishes, until a kitchen cabinet could be acquired. Coffee was bought in the whole bean and ground in a coffee grinder or coffee mill as it was called. These coffee grinders or mills could then be purchased in hardware stores for 35 to 50 cents. The sound of the coffee grinder always meant a pot of coffee in the making.

Butter churning also took place in the kitchen. The wooden barrelchurn that sent the cream flippety — flop from one end of the churn to the other was a chore most children could do. It was a good time to learn your memory work as the beat of the poem often matched your thumpty-thump of the churn.

On washdays a copper boiler filled with water was heated on the kitchen range. To wash clothes, the wash board and washtub were used. The white clothes were scrubbed first with homemade soap or Fels Naphtha and then boiled in this boiler to keep

them snowy white. Flower sacks were bleached for diapers, sheets and pillow cases. As time went on hand powered wooden wash machines were used and finally wash machines with a motor.

Homes in the olden days had no electric lights. Candles, coal oil lanterns, and lamps (later gas lamps) were another chore that had to be looked after daily with sooty lamp chimneys to wash, wicks to trim and lamps to fill with coal oil. Commodes in the bedroom took the place of the bathroom facilities, which we have today. A commode was a stand in the bedroom that held the wash basin and the pitcher of water on top for washing your hands and face and it held a chamber in a drawer underneath.

Baths were taken in the family washtub.

The people of this era were a dedicated self reliant people who had the faith and will through hard labor to carve this wilderness area into a home, not only for themselves but for their descendants. They bonded together to help each other in time of stress

and sickness with an unselfish community spirit for the good of all.

Land Allocation

In the later part of the eighteen hundreds the Canadian Government sent men to survey and chart the North West Territories.

The unit of survey as in most of the west, was the township, consisting of a square of land six miles by six miles, divided into thirty-six sections of six hundred and forty acres each or one hundred and forty-four quarter sections of one hundred and sixty acres. The numbering started in the south east corner of the Province, beginning at the International Boundary. The meridians and ranges numbered from east to west and the townships from south to north.

At the northeast corner of each section a marker was placed giving section, township, range and meridian. Road allowances divided the sections, one mile apart running north and south; two miles apart

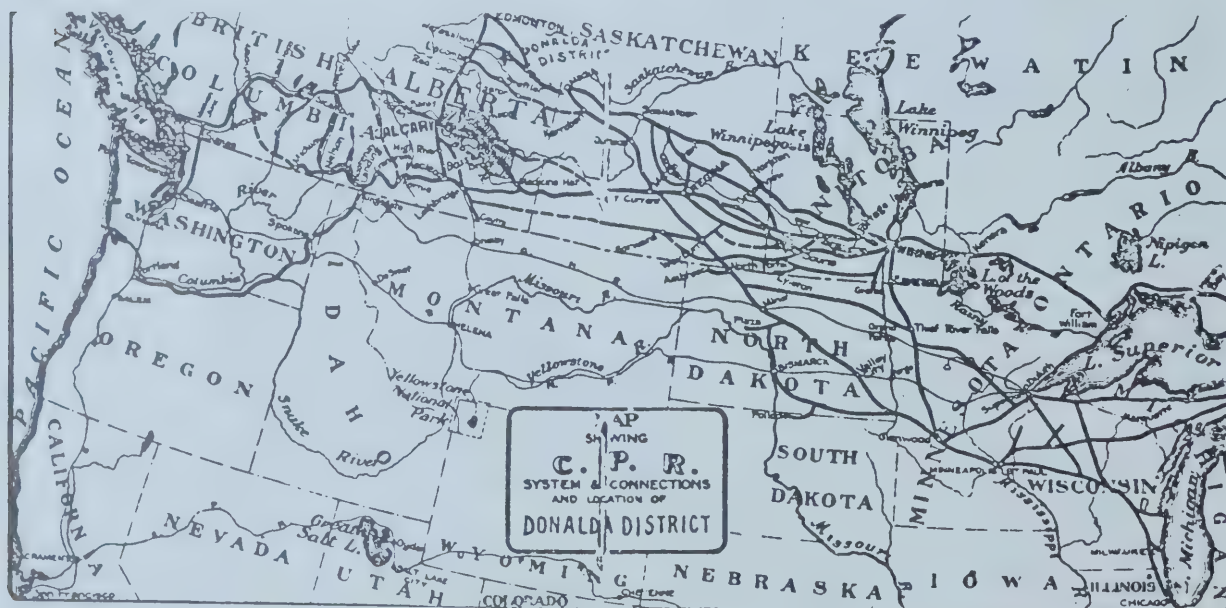
Donalda, Alberta.

January 15th, 1915

I came from Ledgerwood, North Dakota, eight years ago and settled on a homestead close to Donalda, and am farming in wheat and oats and found this to be better than around Ledgerwood, for we can raise more

North Dakota for there are plenty of small groves for them to go in and for hogs it is fine also.

If a man wants to come and make a home, it is the best, I think, for I go around and thresh and break with my steam rig, so I find out the country around here. THOS. LONEY.



wheat to the acre, from 20 bushels to 40 bushels to the acre, oats 40 to 100 bushels per acre—and only one year that I did see a little frost in low places, but not to speak about.

I am farming about 400 acres in wheat and oats and have a good many horses and cattle and the horses and cattle are fed outside in the winter which is not so bad as it is in

Meeting Creek, Alberta.

January 6th, 1915

I own the S.E. 1/4 of Sec. 20-42-19 west of the 4th. I came here with nothing from Sweden, about 12 years ago. I am now pretty well fixed. I raise hogs and cattle and grain. There is considerable good C. P. R. land here as yet for sale. CARL MALINE.

running east and west. Special diversion surveys were often necessary for rivers, lakes and coulees.

Many years before, the Hudson's Bay Company had been given "Rupert's Land" which roughly included most of present day Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The Hudson's Bay Company agreed at the time of this grant to govern this vast territory, keep peace with the Indians and of course engage in a lucrative fur trade. As the white man pushed farther west and the fur trade started to wane, the Dominion Government made a deal with the Hudson's Bay Company to trade their sole rights in the west for specific parcels of land and three hundred thousand pounds sterling. In most cases the Hudson's Bay Company received section eight and three quarters of section twenty-six in each township.

The Government reserved in most townships, sections eleven and twenty-nine as school land. This land with the exception of two or three acres reserved for the building of a school, was eventually sold

(sometimes by public auction) and the proceeds were put in an education fund.

Veterans of the South African (Boer) War were given on their return to Canada, a negotiable certificate which when presented at a Land Titles Office, entitled them to file on any available half section of land. This land had to be homestead or pre-empted homestead land. The veteran then had "to prove up homestead style" to secure his title. This process of acquiring land was called "South African Script". Many of these men with little or no inclination to farming sold their land after three years, for next to nothing.

All even numbered sections were thrown open to homesteading, but not all districts at the same time. Land near the railroad and the established towns were often opened up first. As the trickle of homesteaders became a torrent, districts opened up at an ever increasing rate. The Government regulations regarding the taking of a homestead were as follows: Any

THE DONALDA EXTENSION OF SETTLEMENT CLUB, DONALDA, ALTA.

Name.	Address	Former Home
A. C. DeWitt,	Donalda, Alta.	Arkansas.
W. E. Lee,	Donalda, Alta.	Iowa.
C. B. Murphy,	Donalda, Alta.	Illinois.
L. F. Krumm,	Red Willow, Alta.	Michigan.
J. C. Schulze,	Donalda, Alta.	Minnesota.
M. E. Elliot,	Donalda, Alta.	Colorado.
C. Stanlake,	Donalda, Alta.	Ontario.
John J. Hagen,	Donalda, Alta.	Minnesota.
Geo. Queseth,	Donalda, Alta.	Minnesota.
I. N. Haviland,	Donalda, Alta.	Washington.
K. J. Stolee,	Donalda, Alta.	N. Dakota.
L. E. Seymour,	Donalda, Alta.	Michigan.
T. W. Fader,	Donalda, Alta.	Ontario.
R. Leissinger,	Wessington, Alta.	S. Dakota.
W. E. Porter,	Red Willow, Alta.	Kansas.
D. J. McKay,	Donalda, Alta.	P. E. I.
E. J. Pontious,	Donalda, Alta.	Iowa.
O. C. Johnson,	Donalda, Alta.	N. Dakota.
E. E. Heater,	Donalda, Alta.	Iowa.
R. E. Heater,	Donalda, Alta.	Iowa.
C. H. Jenson,	Donalda, Alta.	Minnesota.
J. L. Hollingshead,	Donalda, Alta.	Kansas.
J. Beaton,	Donalda, Alta.	Ontario.
T. H. Sears,	Donalda, Alta.	Nebraska.
A. H. MacLeod,	Donalda, Alta.	Kansas.
J. A. Tucker,	Donalda, Alta.	Oklahoma.
F. A. Ullman,	Donalda, Alta.	Iowa.
C. H. Haney,	Donalda, Alta.	Kansas.
Henry Ramstad,	Donalda, Alta.	Minnesota.
F. E. Haneline,	Donalda, Alta.	Kansas.
Claud Dennis,	Donalda, Alta.	Kansas.
J. H. Bearsto,	Donalda, Alta.	P. E. I.
Henry Paulson,	Donalda, Alta.	S. Dakota.
J. A. Brewster,	Donalda, Alta.	Iowa.
William Klemme,	Donalda, Alta.	New York.
Jas. Elless,	Donalda, Alta.	Ontario.
Oscar Norman,	Donalda, Alta.	Washington.
O. E. Olson,	Donalda, Alta.	Idaho.
I. W. Clement,	Donalda, Alta.	Kansas.
Bert Jones,	Donalda, Alta.	Oklahoma.
A. Graffunder,	Donalda, Alta.	Wisconsin.
Ed. Robbins,	Red Willow, Alta.	Iowa.
O. Bernard,	Donalda, Alta.	S. Dakota.
I. R. Stolee,	Donalda, Alta.	S. Dakota.
3. A. Vikse,	Donalda, Alta.	S. Dakota.
J. M. Vikse,	Donalda, Alta.	S. Dakota.
Phos. Loney,	Donalda, Alta.	N. Dakota.
Chas. Layher,	Donalda, Alta.	Michigan

F. A. Bailey,	Donalda, Alta.	Iowa.
Henry Christian,	Red Willow, Alta.	S. Dakota.
Gus. Hilker,	Red Willow, Alta.	Iowa.
Jas. Bowden,	Meeting Ck., Alta.	Montana.
Jas. Brown,	Donalda, Alta.	Kansas.
H. Clay Null,	Donalda, Alta.	Missouri.
C. A. Sequist,	Meeting Ck., Alta.	Minnesota.
Lile Barber,	Donalda, Alta.	Oklahoma.
W. C. Steinhoff,	Donalda, Alta.	N. Dakota.
C. A. Clark,	Donalda, Alta.	Montana.
W. J. Jackson,	Donalda, Alta.	Ontario.
Conrad I. Bjorge,	Ferry Pt., Alta.	Minnesota.
S. L. Ackland,	Donalda, Alta.	S. Dakota.
Jacob Hearonemus,	Monvel, Alta.	Ontario.
J. E. Losie,	Donalda, Alta.	Minnesota.
Howard Losie,	Donalda, Alta.	Minnesota.
O. P. Moore,	Donalda, Alta.	Kansas.
R. A. Butzer,	Donalda, Alta.	Ontario.
H. W. Otkin,	Donalda, Alta.	Kansas.
J. A. Bradley,	Donalda, Alta.	S. Dakota.
J. Philpot,	Meeting Ck., Alta.	Chicago.
John P. Swangstu,	Donalda, Alta.	S. Dakota.
H. W. McKay,	Donalda, Alta.	P. E. I.
Geo. Ulyett,	Donalda, Alta.	Iowa.
S. J. Hall,	Donalda, Alta.	Ontario.
Bert Parker,	Klemme, Alta.	Michigan.
John Kahl,	Red Willow, Alta.	Iowa.
Oscar Davidson,	Donalda, Alta.	Oklahoma.
W. Kahl,	Red Willow, Alta.	Iowa.
F. L. Barber,	Donalda, Alta.	Oklahoma.
L. E. Barber,	Donalda, Alta.	Oklahoma.
C. D. Barber,	Red Willow, Alta.	Oklahoma.
George Lowerv,	Donalda, Alta.	Ontario.
Lars Garansrud,	Donalda, Alta.	S. Dakota.
Ole Paulson,	Donalda, Alta.	S. Dakota.
H. Wallace,	Donalda, Alta.	Ontario.
J. Fitzpatrick,	Donalda, Alta.	Idaho.
H. Vincent,	Donalda, Alta.	Idaho.
H. Pickering,	Donalda, Alta.	Oklahoma.
John Smith,	Donalda, Alta.	Nova Scotia.
E. W. Grice,	Donalda, Alta.	Ontario.
W. L. McIntyre,	Donalda, Alta.	Oklahoma.
O. T. Nelson,	Edberg, Alta.	Minnesota.
T. H. Green,	Meeting Ck., Alta.	Oregon.
Carl Maline,	Meeting Ck., Alta.	Sweden.
O. Stanwich,	Donalda, Alta.	Minnesota.
J. F. Messner,	Hastings Coulee, Alta.	N. Dakota.
Victor Johnson,	Donalda, Alta.	Sweden.
Nels Eckland,	Donalda, Alta.	S. Dakota.
Geo. Lund,	Donalda, Alta.	Iowa.
David McKay,	Donalda, Alta.	P. E. I.
H. T. Halvorson,	Donalda, Alta.	S. Dakota.
K. N. Haugejorden,	Donalda, Alta.	Norway.
Lars E. Hagen,	Donalda, Alta.	S. Dakota.
Winfield Logan,	Donalda, Alta.	Kansas.
Ramstad Bros.	Donalda, Alta.	Minnesota.

man eighteen years of age or older who was, or intended to become, a British subject, or any widow with dependent children, could file on a quarter section. The homesteader had to build a habitable home and live in it six months of each year over a period of three years. He had to break at least thirty acres of land and crop twenty acres, do some fencing and fireguarding. The cash cost, or office fee for filing on a homestead was Ten Dollars.

To reach prospective settlers the Dominion Government advertised in eastern Canada, Great Britain, Europe and south of the border in the United States. From the rush of people who headed to the north west

in the early part of this century, one must believe the Canadian Government had some very persuasive advertising.

December 31, 1912

Donalda, Alberta, 84 miles south of Vegreville, on the Battle River section of the Canadian Northern Railway. Population 200: Americans and Scandinavians. Has 1 barber shop, 2 blacksmith shops, 1 chinese restaurant, 2 coal mines, 1 drug store, 1 elevator, 2 general stores, 2 hardware stores, 1 hotel, 2 livery barns, 1 lumber yard, 1 painter, 2 pool-rooms, 1 real estate and implement dealer. One school (costing \$5000.00) C.N.R. station agent,

No. 235058

DOMINION LANDS.

INTERIM HOMESTEAD RECEIPT.

No. 15860

Agency, _____ 190__

MAY 15 1907
RED DEER, ALTA.

I Certify that I have received from E. Hagen
Camrose

the sum of TEN Dollars, being the office fee for Homestead Entry for NW
Quarter of Section 16 *Township* 42 *Range* 19
West of 4 *Meridian, and that the said* E. Hagen

is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such cases by the provisions of "The Dominion Lands Act," respecting Homestead Rights

W. J. Cunningham
Local Agent.

NOTED: All minerals existing on or under the lands herein described, are reserved to His Majesty.

This receipt is granted under and subject to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act and its amendments governing Homesteads.

Methodist and Lutheran Churches. Board of Trade, Mr. L. W. Bell being the secretary-treasurer. The soil in this district is a black loam, 66% arable, from \$13.00 per acre upward. There was a 25% increase in the acreage under cultivation in 1912 over 1911. In 1912, 20,000 bushels of grain were shipped from this point. Farmers needed.

Taken from "Opportunities and Business Openings in Towns in Western Canada located along the Canadian Northern Railway".

Weather

According to the dictionary weather is the general atmospheric conditions as regards temperature, moisture and other meteorological phenomena—wind, rain, cold, heat, clouds or storms. At some point since the turn of the century Donalda area has had them all.

The 'Hardest Winter', 1906-07 when snow arrived on November 2nd and it snowed nearly every day for two and a half months. Snow on the level averaged four feet and drifted to ten feet. Temperatures ranged from 50 to 60 degrees below zero F. Ordinary foot travel was impossible and some used snow shoes.

One of the worst hail storms was in the summer of 1909. The hailstones were rather flat and as round as saucers, upon examination were found to be made up of many smaller stones frozen into a cluster. It was witnessed by George Wells and Laurie Williams.

On June 17, 1914 a storm passed six miles north of Donalda and lifted the Bethany Lutheran church from its foundation and turned it onto its side.

A very heavy summer frost was witnessed by Randolph Rasmussen July 23, 1918 when at 3 A.M. icicles a foot and a half long were hanging from the boiler of the steam engine. Of course the grain crops that year were a total loss.

The summer of 1922 is remembered because it produced one of the heaviest rainfalls. A cloud came in from the south west and within minutes water was a foot deep draining down the road to the coulee. Lars Larson recalled seeing two porcupines stranded in a tree for at least a week because of the flood.

1930-31 was the 'Open Winter'. A little snow fell

in November, but it soon melted and the remaining winter was mild.

The spring of 1938 is recalled as the Dust Bowl. Dry conditions and strong winds combined to create Black Blizzards.

Heavy snowfall and rapid melting in the spring of 1948 caused heavy flooding.

March 17, 1951 is remembered as one of the worst blizzards. A newspaper reported — "Donalda district paralysed by blizzard—has stories to tell of hardships and inconveniences". Jim Jones found himself snowed in at a drilling rig, eight miles from Stettler, and it was his wedding day! Les Damberger's snow plow and the municipal snow plow fought a battle with the stork, and the stork won. Bonnie Clement was born at home with the able assistance of Hazel Jones. After the storm it took the municipal snow plow 48 hours to go ten miles east, having to work through drifts ten feet deep in places.

July 14, 1953 is well remembered by the Don Peterson family for that was the day the wind struck their farm, took clothes off the line, outbuildings were hurled around, the hip-roofed barn was lifted off its base and wreckage was everywhere. This same wind struck the village and surrounding area at an estimated 100 mph. In town, thousands of dollars worth of damage was done to the school, homes and business places. The entire roof of the UGG elevator was blown off. The buildings at the sports grounds were completely demolished—and the next day was the annual sports day. Miraculously no one was hurt, and a large crowd of men gathered at the sports grounds to rebuild the buildings—and the sports day was held—business as usual.

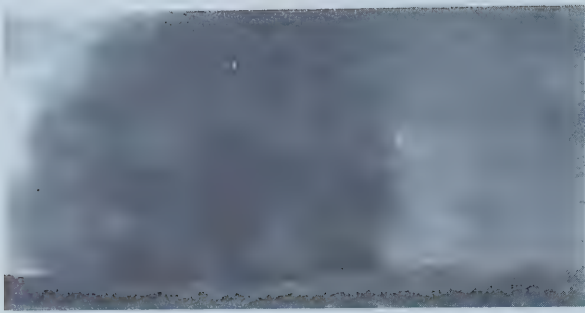
The winter of 1962-63 probably holds the record for most variable weather. A rise or drop of 60 degrees F. over a period of twenty-four hours was not uncommon. Schools were closed for several days because of storms and four times the snow almost disappeared because of chinooks. A quotation from a diary from February 8 to 14 points out the variety — "Sunday — chinook; Monday — blizzard; Tuesday — calm and cold till Thursday; Friday — blizzard — school closed; Tuesday — thawing; Wednesday — 45 degrees above at noon — then rain; Thursday — cold".

The coldest blizzard occurred December 15, 1964 when the wind chill dropped to a -120 degrees F. It was the day Cora Lynn school burned down and people in Red Willow heard it on the radio—the storm was so intense they had missed the action across the street.

May 17, 1965 saw a freak snow storm hit this area. Power lines and telephone lines were covered



Flooding in Coulee north of Village of Donalda 1948.



Dust cloud crossing Buffalo Lake from north side to Bar Harbor area on south.

with ice and broke under the weight of the ice. Service was out for a week and there was no school.

July 20, 1969 a cyclone wind hit Carl Kline's barn and took the top off level with the hayloft floor where it was anchored with steel cables. The barn was 40 by 80 with a hip-roof. This happened the day man first landed on the moon.

March of 1974 stands out in memory as the year of deep snow and blizzards. Roads were blocked with ten foot snow drifts of hard packed snow. A nightmare for councillors and snow plow operators. It was compared to the deep snows of 1906-07 but this time instead of snow shoes, snow cruisers were the order of the day.

Of course the deep snow melted and caused floods later in April and May. Several families were isolated by the run off and in some places water still covers land that was dry before the flood—and that was six years ago.

The winter of 1978-79 was very mild for this area, very little snow until the middle of February when for a week it snowed and turned cold but by the middle of March it was all gone again.

The summer and fall of 1979 should have set a new record. Though not enough rain to suit every one we had a late fall with no killing frost until the middle of October and no snow until November 26.

The weather — “Everybody talks about it — no one does a thing about it” — but they do. In the Donalda area, there are several observation stations for the Weather Modification Board. These stations record rainfall and hail for the Alberta Hail Project during the summer months with the hope that from these records something can be done to lessen or prevent the terrible damage that can occur. These stations have kept records for the past five years and according to latest bulletins radar can track hail storms and predict intensity so that planes can seed them. It works most of the time and it is hoped that in the near future all hail damage can be cut to a minimum through the combined efforts of the

Weather Modification Board and its volunteer helpers.

It has been said of Alberta weather—if you don't like the present weather, just wait until tomorrow it will be different—maybe not better, but different.

Geology of Donalda and Vicinity

by David Cuff, Calgary Geologist (as written for “Fifty Years on the Coulee Rim”)

Eight thousand feet below the village of Donalda is the granite basement of our continent. These basement rocks represent the first chapter in the earth's history. Although deeply buried here, they are seen at the surface in the north part of the Prairie Provinces and in Eastern Canada. The oldest basement rocks are about three billion (3,000,000,000) years old. This age, determined by the radio-active clocks in certain minerals, is necessarily the best indication of how old our planet is — over three billion years.

The eight thousand feet of rocks that cover the basement in the Donalda area provide a record of the 600,000,000 years; which have elapsed since the basement as we know it was buried. A lot of things can happen in 600,000,000 years; and the rocks indicate that many drastic changes did occur.

To the west, mountain ranges were built — then worn away by the patient forces of erosion. Volcanoes in the West bombarded the plains with volcanic ash. In the Donalda area and most of Alberta ocean waters flooded the land repeatedly. In fact, for most



Coulee picture

of the elapsed time the area was partly or completely submerged, and hence the site of deposition of rocks. The eight thousand feet of sedimentary rocks are evidence of the ancient floods. However, for a number of long periods the area was not submerged. It was subjected to erosion — as it is today. During such periods hundreds of feet of rock formed earlier were worn away; and the resulting silts and sands were carried away by streams and wind to contribute to sedimentary rocks elsewhere on the land and in the ocean.

In addition to the changing ocean levels there were a number of changes in the climate which are

recorded by different rock types and different plant and animal remains found in the rocks. Throughout the years plant and animal life have evolved from simple one-celled types, and the various stages of their evolution are preserved as fossils in the rocks. For instance, the dinosaur remains found in the Drumheller and Donalda areas indicate that dinosaurs lived in these areas about 60,000,000 years ago.

It was shortly after the time of the dinosaurs that the Donalda area witnessed its last important time of deposition. The resulting rocks, the Paskapoo sandstones, are widespread throughout central and southwestern Alberta, and are important to the topography around Donalda. This last time of deposition ended about 20,000,000 years ago.

It was followed by a long period of erosion during which the Rocky Mountains were thrust up into their present form and the major topographic features around Donalda were formed. This period of erosion was followed by the Age of Glaciation which began one million years ago.

The glaciers of this time were caused by a drastic change in climate which brought enormous snowfalls to northern Canada. The snow built up in thickness and compacted into ice which began to flow under the pressure of the overlying ice and snow, in the same way that today's mountain glaciers flow. Through this flowing mechanism, immense ice sheets advanced southward across the Donalda area and into what is now the U.S.A. One ice sheet in the Donalda area was an estimated 2,000 feet thick. There were at least three and maybe four distinctly separate advances of the ice across the area, separated by warm periods during which the ice retreated by melting and shrank back into northern Canada.

The last ice sheets disappeared about 20,000 years ago. Since that time there has been no major alteration in the land surface; there has been only the slow erosional action of streams, frost and wind. Essentially, then with exception of road building and cultivation which began around the turn of the century, the land surface has been in its present form for about 20,000 years.

Physiography — the Shape of the Land

Bedrock Effects —

The form of the land around Donalda is related mostly to one important factor, the nature of the bedrock that underlies the area. The major topographic features are the following: the highlands west of Donalda and west of Buffalo Lake; the flat country on which Donalda, Stettler, Wavy Lake and Sullivan

Lake are situated; and the Meeting Creek and Battle River drainage systems whose valleys dissect the flat country.

The highlands — 200 to 300 feet higher than the flats — are high because of the presence of a fairly hard sandstone. It is the Paskapoo sandstone mentioned in the geological history. While not an extremely hard rock, this sandstone is much more resistant to erosion than the rocks that underlie the flats. Consequently it stands out and forms small cliffs, while the softer rocks have been worn to a flat power surface.

Glacial Effects —

These major features of highland and flats were formed by the period of erosion that occurred just before the glacial time. The glaciers that followed eroded the surface further and left behind some surface deposits that add minor topographic features to the area. Fortunately some extremely interesting examples of glacial features can be seen very close to Donalda.

Directly west of the village, but east of Buffalo Lake is a north-south belt of hummocks or small hills that essentially are mounds of material dumped by a glacier and possibly shaped by the movement of a subsequent glacier. The rolling hills between Donalda and the No. 12 highway are of glacial origin also.

A second type of feature can be found in abundance just across the Battle River, near the C.N.R. line that joins Kelsey, Rosalind, Ankerton and Heisler. The features are long ridges (eskers) one to six miles in length. They were caused by sediments collecting in drainage tunnels at the base of an ice sheet.

A third type of feature can be seen in Township 39, Range 18, (directly east of Leahurst). These are furrows, gouges and moulded shapes caused by a moving ice mass; and their alignment SW-NE is evidence that the ice sheet in that area advanced southwestward. These are best seen from the air or aerial photographs.

Bedrock at Donalda.

The bedrock in the Donalda area is covered by 10-50 feet of surface material (soil and glacial deposits). However the bedrock is exposed in the valleys of Meeting Creek and the Battle River.

The rocks belong to the Edmonton formation which is of upper Cretaceous age, about 60,000,000 years old. The formation is mostly soft shales and silt, with some sandstones. It includes a great deal of Bentonite which is kind of a clay derived from volcanic ash. So we must conclude that this area was covered a number of times by layers of volcanic ash.

The volcanoes responsible probably were either west of the present Rockies or what is now Montana.

The formation includes a number of coal beds up to 13 feet thick, because the Edmonton formation is very widespread, these coal seams have been mined in a great number of localities throughout Central Alberta, including Drumheller, Edmonton and smaller centres like Donalda.

Fossils

One of the most interesting aspects of the rock under Donalda is its dinosaur remains. This is the same formation that is exposed in the Badlands of the Drumheller area where so many dinosaurs have been recovered. The dinosaur hunting is better at Drumheller than at Donalda mainly because a greater thickness of the rocks is exposed there by the deep Red Deer Valley, hence a longer period of geological history may be seen.

Petrified Wood

Pieces of petrified wood and large tree stumps occur in the Edmonton formation, usually associated with coaly beds. These coaly beds indicate that the area about 60 million years ago was covered by a series of swamps populated by fairly large trees. Some of the trees fell and their material became coal. Other trees when buried by silts and clays became infused with siliceous material which preserved the structure of the wood. One large tree stump has been excavated from the Rosalind area and rest now in the Rotary Park in Red Deer. Also a collection of large tree fragments from the Drumheller area may be seen outside the Canadian Utilities plant in Drumheller.

Crystals

Thin beds of rusty brown ironstone are common in the Edmonton formation. The ironstone mostly is in the form of "cincrerions" or nodular masses. In the centres of these masses frequently are clusters of quartz crystals which are clear, hard, and symmetrically six-sided when well formed. The crystals may be found most easily not at the vertical rock exposure, but on the ground where the concretions have been broken up through exposure and the resistant crystals lie exposed among the rubble.

Water Supply

In the general area surrounding Donalda, water can be obtained from either the shallow surface deposits (glacial) or from the bedrock underneath. About eighty percent of the wells in the region are of the bedrock type because the shallower wells yield only "hard" water and because it is difficult to predict where a suitable surface gravel can be found.

The bedrock, in contrast, holds "soft" water because of the chemical effect of Bentonite in the formation.

A prominent exception to this rule is the water

that occurs in the coal seams. Often it is extremely "hard".

Scattered throughout the formation are patches of sand that are clean enough (free of Bentonite and clay) to allow free passage of the water they contain. The water is under some pressure, and generally rises part way up the drill hole of the well. In a few holes the water flows to the surface and true Artesian wells are realized. One of these is in Lsd. 3, Sec. 30 Tp. 41, Rge. 18.

Patches of clean sand occur at random in the bedrock. There is no well defined sand that is continuous over a broad area. However the patches of clean sand are frequent enough that a hole at almost any location will penetrate a suitable sand — if the hole is deep enough. Most holes in the area found such a sand at a depth of less than 200 feet.

In the immediate Donalda area there is a level in the bedrock where good sands have been found consistently. This level occurs at elevations between 2470 and 2515 feet. The depth of the wells varies in accordance with surface elevations, but generally wells are about 100 feet deep.

Oil and Gas Occurrences

If we draw a line on a map from Redwater south to Camrose, to Stettler, to Drumheller, then southwest to Turner Valley, the line would form a convenient boundary. To the west of the line is the area of Alberta's important oil reservoirs — often deeply buried, but very thick and rewarding. To the east is an area of fewer oil fields but many gas reservoirs — less deeply buried and often rather thin.

The Donalda area, roughly, is on the borderline. It includes elements of both the western and eastern regions.

The deeper oil reservoirs have been found (at about 5,000 feet) at Fenn, Big Valley, Erskine, Stettler, Duhamel, New Norway, Malmo, and Bashaw. These oil reservoirs are related directly or indirectly to ancient reefs of Devonian age. During Devonian time, about 325,000,000 years ago, corals were very abundant and formed many reefs in warm shallow ocean waters — reefs similar to those in today's tropical waters. Eventually the reefs were buried by deep water deposits of dense shale that sealed or capped the porous reef masses to form ideal reservoirs for oil. This type of reservoir is very important, for it accounts for about 60% of Alberta's oil reserves. The Leduc field, discovered in 1947, was the first reservoir of the reef type found in Alberta; naturally its discovery touched off an intensive search for similar reefs. Those in the Donalda region were found about 1950-51.

Typical shallow gas reservoirs are tapped by the

wells immediately surrounding the Village of Donaldda. These holes produce mostly from sandstones at a depth of about 3,300 feet. They are sandstones of Lower Cretaceous Age — about 100,000,000 years old. It is sandstones of this age that account for most of the gasfields and oilfields in the eastern region.

Memories of Donaldda 1933-1941

by Pat Dempsey

Nineteen thirty-three is as far back as I can remember. The Depression and the dirty thirties were under way, and things were to get a lot worse. We owned that big nine room house in town, which in those days was probably the only one that had in-door plumbing. We had a coal and wood stove in the kitchen for cooking and heating, and a coal and wood furnace in the basement for heating. With a full basement, I can remember we had some pretty wild in-door hockey games going, with as many as a dozen kids playing down there at one time.

A year or two before I started school, Mum started a kindergarten. There were four of us who attended for at least two years, before we all started school.

For one birthday present, I got a set of molds, for making lead soldiers. We would spend hours, out in the roadway in front of the garage, melting down lead we got from old car batteries. Each kid had his own can of lead in the fire, and we took our turns when it came time to pour. This would go on all summer. Pete Rasmussen who lived next door, would swear on a stack of Bibles, that sooner or later us kids would let the fire get away some day, and burn down the whole town.

I'll never forget that hail storm that hit, late one Sunday afternoon in 1935. By the time it was over, there wasn't a glass window left on the west side of any house in town. It was weeks before all the windows were finally repaired and everything back to normal. It sure kept the hardware stores busy cutting glass for awhile. There wasn't a garden or crop left for miles, and I can still remember the roar of the hail coming down.

At about the age of six or seven, I was drafted into a thing called music lessons. Who was interested in sitting down on a hard old piano bench, and having somebody try and shove a bunch of long haired music down your throat, when there was a baseball or hockey game going on. The hair brush and bare hand, were used many a time, over not practicing music lessons. The worst was yet to come. Once a year, we were conscripted to appear in one of Mrs. Irene Oatways music recitals, which were held in the

Church. Getting scrubbed behind the ears, and your best suit on, down you were marched. It seemed the whole town was there, the place would be packed. It was tough enough to get up the first time and let them hear what you had learned, but when somebody came in late, a few strings were pulled, and before it was over, one had to get up again and do it the second time. I still think to this day, that there was a pay off, somewhere along the line, to the number that showed up to listen to the way we played long haired music. By the time one got home your blood pressure and temper had boiled over.

I started school in the Bailey house, and Jenny Whitehorn was the teacher. In those days, grades one to four were in that building and grades five to twelve were in the school that burned down. Margaret Lawson came the second year, and by the time grade three rolled around, the present school was ready. Who will ever forget the country kids, that came in by horse drawn school van, summer and winter, and seldom missed a day of school. The girls came to school in dresses made from flour sacks. The kids that had no shoes, wore rubbers all the time, and held them on their feet with a rubber band, cut from an old inner tube. There was Doctor Hodgson and his inoculation needles. Whether you liked it or not, you got a poke in the arm, for everything, and you still ended up with measles, chicken pox, whooping cough, mumps and orneryness.

The schools musical festivals were in Stettler and Bashaw. Some kids could sing pretty good, but there were a few like me, when we got up there, it sounded like two bobcats in mating time. The basketball games were held on the outdoor courts, and the field days, between the town and country schools. I won the softball throw for my age, two years in a row, but the kids from Skybo school had won the most points when the day was over. The morning the school caught fire, I sure made it over to that one in record time. Before it got too hot, they were able to drag out a number of desks, and a few other things. A number of the desks that came out the front door, also ended up at the back door, and in the school again, and are gone forever. (I gotta admit, I helped with that one).

The baseball games and Sports day were a must. Jimmy Otteson, could drive a fly ball, higher, further and harder than anyone. By getting both hands in the catchers mitt, I even caught the odd one. One sports day, they turned loose a greased pig. There were about fifteen guys chasing it. A few of us kids thought it looked like fun so we joined the chase. It started in the ball diamond, and ended west of Albert Norman's house. George Chambers Junior was the one who finally nailed him, and all the rest of us got

out of it was oil and grease all over everything. My little brown sweater is still buried in a hole, along that road somewhere. Ole Anderson paid a nickle for every foul ball returned. If you were lucky and could survive the pile up, free for all, fights and everything else that went with a foul ball, and get back to Ole with it, that meant a five cent ice cream cone. You'd get about two licks off the cone, when some dirty dog would reach over with his bare hand and steal just the ice cream part. At least you got to eat the cone part.

At the Coronation of the King and Queen (there were two close together), there were big bonfires, and real fireworks. Those were the first live fireworks many of us kids had ever seen, and we figured it was wonderful. Earl Porter picked burned up sky rockets from his garden and yard for days afterwards.

Us kids spent countless hours roaming the coulee below the town. I guess we covered every inch of it during summer holidays. In the winter, you could ski up and down for miles. The first skis I had, were made from barrel staves, with a leather strap in the middle where you slid your feet into. Once you got onto it you could go pretty good. The sleigh rides, and the hair raising bob-sleigh rides down the east hill below the elevators. It didn't seem to matter how many showed up, all seemed to be able to get on, or hang onto that bob-sleigh. Piling up and rhubarbs into the ditch, were part of the fun. I can't remember anyone ever getting hurt, in all the trips that we made down the hill. How we missed the coal trucks, cars, sleighs and anything else that was coming up the hill as we went down, I don't know to this day. Some of the girls were on those sleigh rides, and their shrieks and screams will long echo throughout the valley. Once you reached the bottom and stopped, it was sure a hell of a long way to walk back and pull the bob-sleigh.

Murats had a straw barn a few hundred yards east of where Johnny Swaren lives today. They kept milk cows in it at night, and supplied some milk to the town. One night a cow kicked over the lantern and away she went. By the time most of us got there, the whole barn was long gone. At least the cows got out, but the rest went up in smoke.

The railway tracks, grain elevators, and stockyards were our favorite hangouts. Many activities took place there. There was this smart kid, who climbed up on top of a box car one day and then fell off. The rest packed him up the street to his Dad's law office, but the only thing hurt was his pride. We used to shoot sparrows with B.B. guns in the first story of the grain elevators. When we ran out of shot, we would spend hours sweeping the whole floor, digging the dirt and dust out of the cracks in the wooden floor, and packing the whole works outside in pails.

We had a piece of wire screen to shake the dust and dirt through and got the B.B. shot back. Nobody had a dime to buy a new package of shot, so we did it the hard way.

Many times, we met the passenger train, which came in at noon hour, just to see who was coming and who was going. In those days, mail, freight, express and you name it came in by rail. If they were awhile unloading the passenger train, the engineer would let us kids up into the engine cab for a look. In the depression the freight trains came through with hundreds of men riding on top of the box cars. That went on until the war started.

Fred Tebow ran the stock yards. In those days everything was shipped out by rail. More than once, when there were lots of hogs in, a bunch of us would corner one, and being one of the smallest guys there, I always got elected to do the riding. I'd get on his back and they'd turn him loose. It was always the same thing, across the yard we would go for the nearest mud hole and in we'd go, sometimes head first. Fred would sit on the fence and double up with laughter. I still claim to this day, I was the hog riding champion of the Donalda Stockyards.

A lot of time was spent in Herb Barley's blacksmith shop and in the Creamery next door, watching the boys make butter. In those days, the power plant which supplied the electric lights for the town was in the back of the creamery. Most places had electric lights in them, when the plant was working right, but you still had the kerosene and gas lights handy just in case the plant broke down.

For awhile, picture shows were held on Wednesday nights. One or two kids would go all over town, ringing a bell and reminding you the show was on the next night. The hall was used for dances, minstrel shows, plays (local talent), fowl suppers, and everything else. For a couple of years, a live travelling show came through with trained dogs, monkeys and a trained bear.

There was also a barber shop, pool hall and Chinese Cafe. It seemed like the time would never come when you would be old enough to get in the pool hall. The years went by and we finally made it. The day we had a slight ruckus, and a few words with the Chinaman, led to something else. A couple of days later, we spotted a fresh apple pie, just out of the oven, sitting on the kitchen table cooling off. It was only a few feet inside, from the back door. When a certain Chinese was busy up front, a couple of block buster firecrackers were placed in the pie, and the fuses lit. Both of us, just made it out the back door when she blew. It was a long time before we were able to buy firecrackers from that place again. I bet there was still apple pie, sticking to the walls and

ceiling, years later when they finally pushed that building over and burned it.

Gone, but not forgotten are the rides around the town on Billy Robinson's dray wagon, with his horses, Jim and George. This team and dump wagon hauled shale up from the coulee, which was put on some of the streets. (It was a big deal when you got to pull the lever on the dump wagon). I recall the teams and men who hauled big loads of wood to town for the winter wood supply. When every household had the loads they wanted, Ed Henley came with his big buzz saw and cut it into blocks. You would be cutting and piling wood for weeks afterwards. I remember the coal trucks, teams and sleighs, that hauled coal to town and the boys in the mines who mined it. The mud roads in the summer and the snow blocked roads in the winter. With no gravel, and no snow plows, you either stayed home or used the train. All the farmers came to town in the winter time with horses and sleighs, and tied up along that cable, that was on the south side of the skating rink, or between the old hotel and Hjorth's garage.

The skating rink was between main street and the creamery, and more time was spent cleaning the snow off the rink than was spent playing hockey or ice skating. I can still remember my parents, along with other grown ups, playing broomball at nights on the rink. Quite a number of hockey games were played there over the years and many enjoyable hours were spent skating. The shack that was used for a rink house, where you put your skates on had a pot bellied stove in the middle of it, with stove pipes running up and across to the corner. One pipe went out through the roof for a chimney. The stove never seemed to stay lit, so one night we filled it up with coal and wood, and somebody dumped in a can of gas. It sure went that night, the stove lit hit the ceiling and deflected out the window. There were stove pipes, soot, wire, skates and you name it all over the place. That took hours to clean up, but at least we got the fire going.

Many hours were spent down at the golf course, looking for lost golf balls. We'd look until we finally found one or two each, and then we could get a game in. I had only three clubs, (which I still have) and it took a long time to get in the nine holes, but it was a lot of fun and we enjoyed it. They would burn the grass off in the spring on the whole thing, and every year it was the same thing. The fire always got away on them and it would take half the night getting it under control.

In those days I got a nickle every Saturday and that meant a bag of Jelly Beans from Vikse's store. The bag would last about ten minutes after I treated all the kids on Main Street. Often there was a free for

all between the five Rudvic boys and the rest of the town kids. Rudvics moved away from Donalda two years before the war, and I was to meet them again in Donalda some thirty-five years later, when they all came back for a visit. We had a grand visit and a lot of laughs.

Even in those days, there was more than one, who came out of the door from the bar in the hotel, leaning thirty degrees to starboard. They would take about three steps and fall off the sidewalk. All the kids thought it was funny.

One thing you never saw in those days were airplanes. I can recall only one which landed near town, one sports day and took people up for rides. A year or two after the war started and the training planes started to fly over the town. More than once, if the school classroom heard one coming they would all rush to the window to have a look. Some kids had never seen a real one until the war started. There are people who still live in Donalda today, who will remember some of the local boys who enlisted early in the war, and learned how to fly and then flew home and dive bombed the town. I can remember at least two of them. You sure had a good look at a plane then.

One thing I will always remember about Donalda, and the depression, was the year the fruit growers at Kelowna, British Columbia, shipped box cars of apples to different places on the prairies. The apples were in box cars in bulk, and one of these cars arrived in Donalda in the winter time. I can still remember Dad, and Earl Porter and a number of the men around the town unloading apples into boxes and barrels and anything else handy to get the car unloaded. Town people and those on the farms were all given the same amount. Our share was in a box loaded on my sleigh, and I remember trying to pull it home by myself. Dad caught up to me somewhere on main street, and he pulled and I pushed and we made it home before they froze. Later on they shipped out cheese from Ontario, which everybody shared.

The years have rolled by, and I guess nearly all of us who lived in Donalda, in those days, have since departed, and gone our separate ways. To the ones who did live there in those days, and could share some of these memories with me, good luck wherever you are now. It was great to be part of that small village on the coulee rim.

Post Offices

The information in this brief history was obtained by talking to some of Donalda's "Old Timers". The exact locations of some of the post offices and the dates they were first started can only be approximated.



Dick Dolan — hauling mail from Station to Post Office on Dray.

Wessington: was started about 1902-03. The Bert Averill family opened a store and post office on the N.W. 10-41-17-w4. Later the post office was moved to the C. Stratton homestead located on S.E. 3-41-17-w4. The post office was still operating in 1916.

Old Red Willow: had a post office by the year 1903, which was run by E. H. Prudden. A large part of the eastern area traded in Old Red Willow until the Town of Donalda was established.

Norbo: post office was located about one mile north of the present day Ibsen School. Iver Borge started the post office in approximately 1902. The post office was still going in 1908.

Ferry Point: was a small settlement on the north bank of the Battle River. This settlement had a post office in about 1901. Nothing remains of the settlement today.

Lamberton: post office was located on the west side of Buffalo Lake. Early settlers on the east side of the lake would have to go there to get their mail. Many made the trip only twice a year.

Monvel: post office was first located on the Hayes homestead from approximately 1906-08. It was then moved to the Castelin home and then later to the Beregin home and remained there until approximately 1924.

Whitebrush: Some of the early settlers received their mail at Whitebrush. This post office was located four miles east and two miles north of the present day Bashaw.

Harker: post office was first located on S.W. 24-41-19-w4. From here it was moved to the S. P. Lee homestead, N.E. 26-41-19-w4. The post office was located on the farm until about 1910 when S. P. Lee moved his store and post office to Donalda.

Donalda: A townsite was started on the rim of the coulee in 1909. The name of the townsite was Eidswold, which was changed in 1911 to Donalda. S. P. Lee was the postmaster at this time. In 1913 Donalda was incorporated into a Village.

Mrs. Lena Otteson was Postmistress from 1914-1950. She served for thirty-six consecutive years. The beginning of the rural mail route began before 1917. Tom Solomonson was the first rural mail carrier. In 1920 he gave this work up. He was followed by Lum Hubble, Albert Batke, Walter Ayres, Henry Seimers and Lars Larson.

In 1940 Tom Solomonson was again the mail carrier. He served until 1950 and then his son Walter took over.

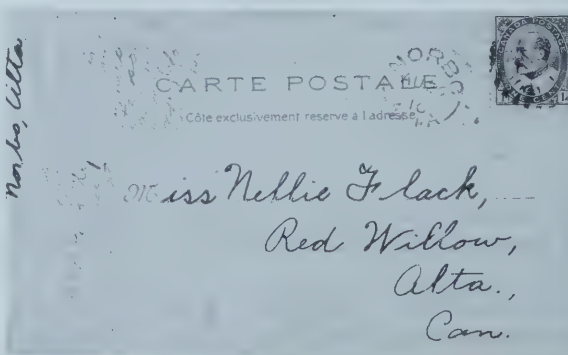
On November 8, 1950, Donalda acquired a new Postmaster, Wally Westlund. The Post Office was at



Monvel.



Eidsvold.

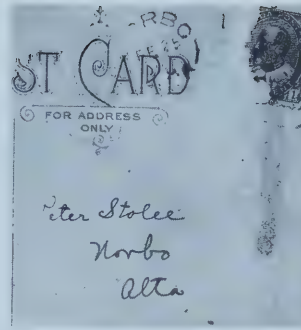


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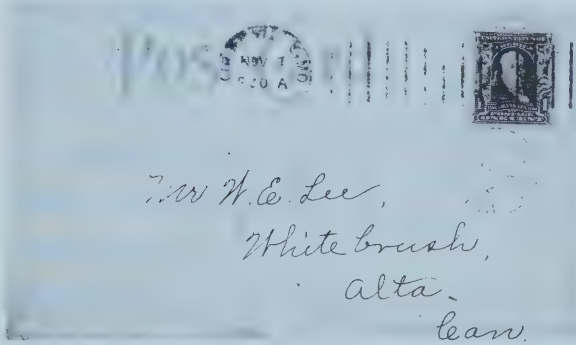
this time located in the "old building". In 1951 the Post Office was moved to Main Street, and in 1961 the new Post Office was built.

Walter Solomonson retired from mail carrier duty in 1970 and Roger Block took over until October of 1974. John Swaren has been the mail carrier since then.

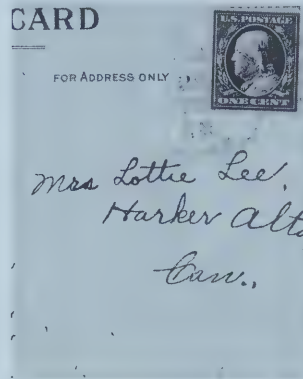
In June of 1979 Wally Westlund retired after twenty-nine years of service. The new Post Master is Robert Fisher.



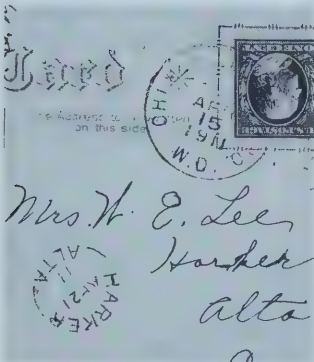
Peter Stolee, Norbo.



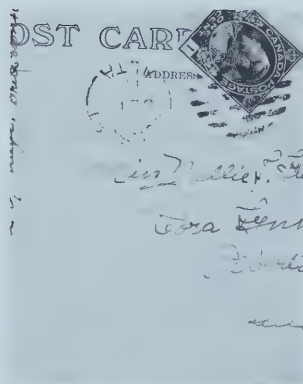
Whitebrush.



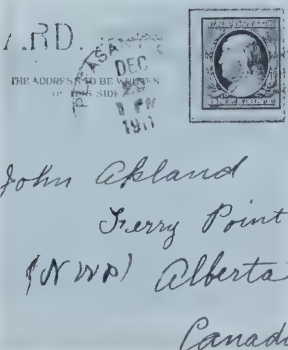
Mrs. Lottie Lee, Harker.



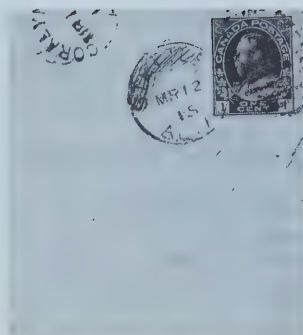
Harker.



Miss Nellie Flack,
Cora Lynn.

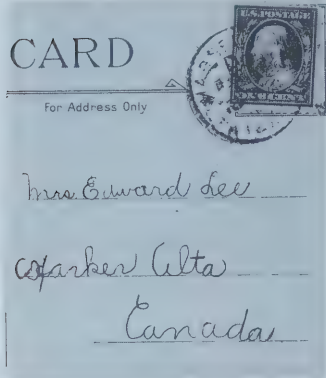
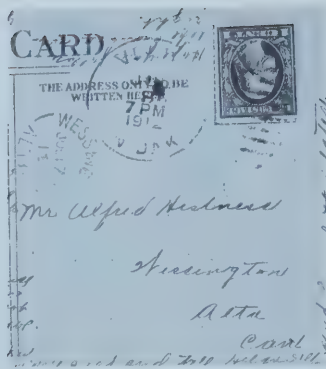


John Akland, Ferry Point.



Cora Lynn.

Wessington.
Post Cards.



Country Stores in the Donalda Area by Berit Hagen Ferry Point

It was in July of 1902, that George P. and Norman Smith, who operated a store in Duhamel, hired Bob Mutch to float lumber down the Pipestone Creek at Gwynne, through Dried Meat Lake down to Ferry Point. William Landkamer and some other settlers helped to build the Ferry Point store. The merchandise was loaded on a barge at Duhamel and floated to the store. This barge was later used as a ferry. Joseph Neveu managed the store for a few months; later Norman Smith took over.

In 1903 Mr. Thirsk from north of the Battle River, bought the store from the Smith Brothers and put his son Wesley in charge of it. Stanley Stauffer, helped to get it started. He was a good storekeeper from Duhamel, who had a good way with the customers, especially the half-breeds who came to trade furs for merchandise. Several thousand muskrat skins were brought in each winter, the price paid was from six to fourteen cents. Green coffee beans were sold, so the customer had to roast and grind their own. This was sold at fourteen to sixteen cents a pound.

The customers helped to bring merchandise from Wetaskiwin, at the freighting price of fifty cents for

one hundred pounds. Bill Welch was a good freighter, who could be depended upon. rain or shine. In about 1927 the old store was purchased by Oscar Minor of Kelsey and made into a shop.

S. P. Lee Store

This was another country store in operation before the railroad was built. Supplies were hauled from Wetaskiwin to a point located two miles west and three miles south of where the present town of Donalda now stands. It was originally built on the McLellan farm, but was moved to Les Damberger's farm about 1905, and just recently dismantled.

Mr. Lee also traded furs and produce for merchandise. These country stores carried shoes, clothes and some hardware. When the railroad came through Donalda. S. P. Lee built a store in Donalda next to the Youth Centre.

S. P. Lee's son died of the flu in 1918-19, and his wife married Fred Ullman. S. P. Lee's granddaughter Edna Mitcheson operated the Blue-Mill cafe for some time in Donalda.

Ethan Allan Store

About one half mile south-east of the Rosalind bridge on the Battle river was another country store, operated by Ralph Tate's mother and step-father. Mr. and Mrs. Ethan Allan. This was in the early thirties, and a real convenience for the miners who lived in the valley. There was even a pool-table set up in the building. It must have been a social centre where people came to visit as well as to shop.

When it burnt down some time later Ralph Tate saved his mother and her sewing machine from the burning building.



S. P. Lee Post Office and Store at Harker.



The Norbo store (Iver Bjorge and Sons). Big Conrad Bjorge, Martin Bjorge, Olaf Bjorge, Hjalmer Bjorge, Sophus Sorenson, Tilly Layher (Mrs. Martin Bjorge), Tilly Bjorge (Mrs. Peterson), Hannah Bjorge (Mrs. Paulson), Gaya Bjorge.

Frank Stahler Store

In the late thirties still another store did business in the mining valley just south of the Rosalind bridge. This was run by Frank Stahler, who was married to Danny LaPorte's sister. When they gave up the business, Joe Lockner took over and managed it from 1941-45. This old log store was once owned by the Wisla's. I remember the rustic log cabin in the valley, and goats everywhere.

Pine Ridge Store

Another store recalled by some folks, was the one operated by Alice Ramstad N. W. 5-43-17, and called the Pine Ridge store. It was in operation in the 1940's, for a couple years. One could buy groceries, nails and other small hardware. There was a gas pump set up, but no-one recalls whether or not gas was ever sold.

Hayes Brothers Store

The Hayes ranch east of Buffalo Lake also had a store located in their home in the years 1905 to 1911. Groceries were brought from Lacombe. Herbert Hayes recalls the Riley McCormick Saddlery wholesale catalogue being enjoyed by the boys.

The Wessington Store

This store was located one mile west and one half mile south of Willow Park school, south-east of Donalds. The store was in the B. W. Averill home on the land later farmed by Charlie Sterns, Supplies were hauled from Lacombe. All that remains today of this early trading place is an old foundation.

C. Halseth Economy Store

The store was located on the Halseth farm in



Halseth Store.

Willow Park, east and south of Donalda. It was in operation from 1908 until the town of Donalda came into being. Otto Paulson's dad did the freighting, with horses, from Stettler, this took two days. Walter Halseth recalls that the supplies might arrive at any hour of the night, and the boys would have to get busy and do the unloading.

The Norbo Store

Situated on the N.E. of section 28 was another country store. This was operated by Ivor Bjorge and family. The old Norbo trail from Wetaskiwin can still be seen on section 9, where the freighters travelled. It was a very popular meeting place for the young folks, from far and near. The reason, several beautiful daughters.

Otto Paulson recalls his brother Henry often riding horseback to Norbo for supplies until Wessington and the Halseth stores were established.

On July 1st, 1908 a big sports day was advertised, to be held on the Norbo grounds, with a brass band in attendance. Included in the events are: Horse races, pony races, cowboy race, and a tug-of-war vs the World. In the evening a grand ball was held.

The Alfred Anderson Store

The last country store to operate was located eight miles north of Donalda, the first store-keeper was Alfred Anderson and his good wife Andrea, who began the business in 1938, and continued until about 1950. Then their daughter Olga Woods took over and served the countryside for a few years. One could also buy gasoline at this store, so many folks will recall "the Store". It was just recently bull-dozed and burnt.



Alfred Anderson Store

The Ellefson Store

The Olstad and Ellefson store was established in 1902, situated six and a half miles north and three and a half miles west of the Donalda townsite. Supplies were hauled from Bawlf. August Vikse walked to the store, and worked there from the age of sixteen. He



Hans Ellefson store (1902)

Second from left (front) sister-in-law of Mrs. Ellefson (Mrs. Olaus Olsen of Dinant) Pete Olsen at extreme right. Fourth from right is Hans Ellefson. Mrs. Ellefson with black dress in doorway.



The Hans Ellefson store remodelled.

couldn't recall Hans Ellefson's partner Olstad as the partnership must have been dissolved early. Upon Mr. Ellefson's death, August Vikse and his brother O. M. (Mike) Vikse, who had been attending the Camrose College decided to buy the business. This was in 1910.

The Vikse Brother's Store

When the Vikse Brothers purchased the Ellefson store in 1910, they continued to operate it until late 1911, when they moved the stock into the S. P. Lee



The Vikse Brother's store in Donalda 1912.

building in Donalda. Since Mrs. Ellefson moved her house into town, August promised to stay with her until he was married.

They continued to freight their supplies from Bawlf, with horses, until the railroad was built. In 1912 they moved into the old bank building on the west side of the Lee Store. The next move was into the Oddfellows hall; then in 1916 to its present site. This store was finally sold in 1955 to Eric Hjorth and Allan Steinhoff.

Trading Post Stores

In writing the early history of our stores, one must not forget the part played by the Hudson's Bay Company.

An early rancher named Waggaby was living one and a half miles west of the old U.S. Hereford Ranch in the Willow Creek bottom. It was here in the 1800's that the Hudson's Bay Company had a trading post. Here also was a burial ground. Skeletons were exposed to the weather. Albert Stratton remembers seeing two skulls.

In the Flora Chalmers diary is mentioned the early supply point up on Boss Hill overlooking Buffalo Lake. Indians and a few whites were there at the time, gathering for the winter, after hunting on the plains all summer. Little cellar holes is all that remains. Here she recalls the Hudson's Bay Company had a little supply post where furs could be gathered and supplies obtained.



Main Street Donalda, 1913.

In "My Forty Years in Canada" written by Colonel S. B. Steele of the R.N.W.M.P. he mentions an episode where illicit whisky was being brought to the camp of buffalo hunters on the north-east end of Buffalo Lake. In this he mentions that he and Inspector Jarvis entered the room and were directed to Ashton's store. They remained there four days, being taken care of by Mrs. Ashton, a young woman of twenty years. She kept the fire going and the pot boiling all the time. The intervals between meals were very short for every now and then they were asked to "draw-in" and a meal was before them of buffalo tongues, bannock, strong tea and canned fruits.

Meeting Creek, Nov 19 1903
M H. Johnson
Bought of
Olstad & Ellefson,
General Merchants.
Got by 1 Sold by 1

<u>20 lbs</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Apples</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Currants</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>10 note</u>	<u>1.00</u>
	<u>1.00</u>

In Account with **Quality Hardware Store**
B. A. BUTZER
"Everything in Hardware"
FURNITURE AND FARM EQUIPMENT
Phone 23
Donalda, Alta. Nov 1 1919
M H. Johnson

<u>1</u>	<u>Cash in</u>	<u>1635</u>
<u>2</u>		
<u>3</u>		
<u>4</u>		
<u>5</u>		
<u>6</u>		
<u>7</u>		
<u>8</u>		
<u>9</u>		
<u>10</u>		
<u>11</u>		
<u>12</u>		
<u>13</u>		

I. BJORGE & SONS

GENERAL MERCHANTS

Norbo, Alta.

Sold to

TERMS CASH.

Sold by

Got by

Salt 16	90
18 lb. sack	2.88
Shampoo	10
2# Borax	25
2 lb. 15	10
	4.23
Rubber 15	8.40
2 lb. 15	1.17

Meeting Creek, Alta. 190.60

Bought of

Hans Ellefson

General Merchant

Sold by..... Got by.....

1 lb. 15	4.0
2 lb. 15	5.0
3 lb. 15	2.5
4 lb. 15	1.0
5 lb. 15	5.0
6 lb. 15	5.0
7 lb. 15	1.35

Newspaper of Donalda

(as copied from Fifty Years on the Coulee Rim)

Donalda once had a paper called the Donalda Review, which was published by Mr. and Mrs. Slight, 1920-22. Another early paper, called the Community Call was published by the United Church and had, as one of the editors, the Rev. Bosomworth. Copies of this cheerful, informative publication are owned by some Donalda people (some of them date around 1927). Authentic information on these papers is elusive and one other publication is known to have existed — published by a Mr. Brooks.

Advertisements appearing in the October 20, 1921 issue of the Donalda Review

F. J. Slight, Editor

The Wilton Store Ltd.

The Palace Meat Market
F. F. and F. C. Downing
Cattle buyers at Donalda,
Meeting Creek and Edberg

W. E. Porter & Co.
Lands, Insurance; Fire,
Life, Hail. Loans and
Notary Public.

Vikse Bros. General Store
Buy your winter onions now
by the 100 lb. sack, winter
underwear, mackinaws, mitts
and gloves, sweaters. Our
prices are the lowest.

The Hotel Spokely
Comfortable rooms.
Unexcelled table service
Quick lunch counter:

Breakfast — 50¢
Dinner or supper — 75¢
Select rooms — \$2.00
Other rooms — \$1.50

Board and room by the
month \$45.00

A. Johnson — General

Blacksmith
OXY Acetylene welding,
horseshoeing
All kinds of woodwork done.

Rhynes Pharmacy

Brown-Rodd Hardware
Wash machines, all makes
\$20.00
Sherwin Williams Best paint
\$4.50 gal
Sherwin Williams Barn paint
\$1.95 gal

Ben Saddlery
Harness, saddlery, robes,
collars, horse blankets, sweat
pads.
A complete repair shop

Col. S. J. Broughton
Licensed Provincial
Auctioneer and Valuator.
Real estate and
Livestock

Donalda Garage (The Red
Brick Garage)
Bring your Ford to Donalda
Garage
if you want a guaranteed job
done by an expert.
C. Stanlake, Prop.

Donalda Agricultural Society

The fourth annual District Agricultural Society was held in 1921, a booklet of the event is in the museum. The fairgrounds were across the tracks on the rim of the Coulee (where the lagoon is). The land was bought from the C.P.R. These grounds were complete with corrals, barns for the show animals, exhibit buildings, baseball diamond, basketball court, dance floor, and race track. All of the

building was done by volunteer labor. In the days when grants hadn't been heard of.

The application with the Department of Agriculture in Edmonton to form the Donalda Agricultural

Society was signed on March 17, 1915. There were 53 signers who paid \$1.00 each to become a member, later the number was 74 members.

The 1st. Pres. was W. E. Lee; 1st. Vice-Pres. W. M. Wilson; 2nd. Vice-Pres. D. J. McKay; Sect.-Treas. B. A. Butzer.

The first Agriculture Fair was held on Aug. 26 & 27, 1918. There were exhibits from livestock to baking, sports and games. All categories were well supported.

There was a baseball and basketball tournament, horse races, foot races, men climbing greased poles for the \$ bill on top and they scrambled to catch the greased pig. The women enjoyed the rolling-pin throwing contest. Almost \$1,000.00 was paid out in prizes for exhibitors and contestants.

The Agricultural Society and Donalda Fair was a great success, but in 1922 the directors made one bad mistake by allowing anyone to compete. There were livestock men who spent the summer travelling the fair circuits with prize stock and they took all the prize money. Hence the local farmers refused to compete and the memberships fell off. So the Society was forced to cease operating the local fair.

The buildings were advertized and sold by tender. This brought in just enough money to pay off the local debts. Only five directors could be found, to pay for the land, they each paid \$100.00 and turned the land over to the village, to be used as a sports ground.

A sports day was held there each year till the present sports ground was acquired.

Donalda Agricultural Society

Officers for 1921

President Harry Wallace
1st Vice-President D. J. McKay
2nd Vice-President George Uylett
Secretary-Treasurer W. E. Porter

Directors

M. Pickering
J. A. Tucker
C. D. VanBlarcom
J. R. Jackson
S. J. Broughton
C. B. Murphy
R. D. Haney
C. Stowell
F. W. Brown
Ed Lee
J. W. Dempsey
L. H. Cullerne
H. McKay
E. N. Whitehorn
E. A. Winter

**DONALDA AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY**

PRIZE LIST

OF THE
FOURTH
ANNUAL EXHIBITION

TO BE HELD AT
DONALDA, ALBERTA

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
August 12 and 13, 1921

DONALDA
TOWN AND DISTRICT

EXHIBITION DAYS
FRI. & SAT.
AUGUST 12 & 13

WATCH FOR BIG POSTERS

Big Program Being Arranged

Two Days' Entertainment
Donalda Agricultural Society
COMMITTEE ON ENTERTAINMENT

Messrs. Tucker, Pickering,
Broughton, Ulyett

Committees

Finance — Messrs. Brown, Dempsey, Cullerne and Porter.

Advertising — Messrs., Uylett, Tucker and Reid.

Programme — Messrs. Grice, Brown and Cullern

Horses

Messrs., Pickering, Whitehorne and Haney.

Cattle, Hogs, and Sheep

Messrs. Jackson, Stowell, Lee and Preston.

Poultry and Dairy

Messrs. Winter, Preston and Krumm.

Educational

Mrs. John Tucker, Mrs. Ed Henley, E. A. Winter and W. E. Lee

Industrial

Messrs. Woodside, Wilton and Broughton

Vegetables, Grains and Grasses

Messrs., W. H. McKay, Murphy and Broughton.

Fine Art

D. J. McKay, Mrs. John Tucker, and Mrs. F. J. Slight.

Sports

Messrs. Tucker, Pickering, Broughton, Uylett, and Pat Murphy.

Auditor

O. M. Vikse

Fair Dates — Friday and Saturday, August 12 and 13th, 1921.

(Taken from Donalda Agricultural Society, 4th Annual Booklet).

Some of the thirty (30) rules and regulations from the Donalda agricultural society booklet. Fourth annual exhibition August 12 and 13, 1921.

1. Admission will be by ticket. Ticket for adults — 50¢; children — 25¢; children under nine years — free. Season ticket — \$1.50.

2. Judges and members of the press will be supplied with ticket and badge on application to the secretary.

3. Automobiles will be charged an entrance fee of 50¢; Carriages — 25¢; and saddle horses — 5¢.

6. Attendants tickets will be issued as follows: Horses — one for two up to six; one for every three over six. Cattle — one for herd of six. Sheep or swine — one for every three or more pens. Poultry — and pet stock — one for each exhibitor making over eight entries.

24. Anyone attempting to steal into the grounds, under or over the fence will be dealt with according to the law.

ENTERTAINMENT

The entertainment of the early settlers in Donalda was quite unlike that of today. Since travelling long

distances was usually impossible most fun and gaiety was enjoyed right at home.

When a young couple were married a chivaree was in order. All the neighbors gathered unexpectedly, usually arousing the newlyweds with a shot gun blast and a lot of noise and excitement. They would later gain entrance to the new home and, of course were happily welcomed when the young couple realized it was all in fun. It was really meant to be a neighborly gesture welcoming them to the community.

School concerts at Christmastime were certainly the highlite of the year for children and adults alike. These concerts featured such items as dialogues, quadrilles, monologues, choruses, pantomimes, dancing and three-act plays were a special attraction. Hours of work, by the teachers and pupils; decorating the schoolhouse and making costumes for the entrants; preceded the big event, beginning early in November. It was certainly rewarding when the big night came and the schoolhouse was filled to capacity with eager little faces, proud parents and grandparents and babes in arms. Sometimes the desks were moved aside after the program to make way for dancing, when grandparents to toddlers participated, while the tiny children slept on an improvised bed atop a desk. Music was supplied by anyone willing. Usually there was a pianist in the crowd.

Box socials and pie socials were very popular at the community dances which were held at the local school. The women and girls would fashion a basket and prepare special lunches which would be auctioned at midnight. Needless to say, every lady hoped that 'certain someone' would end up sitting with her at lunch time.

Sunday school picnics were another gathering of families which were held at the local country church and later at Buffalo Lake. Each family brought a picnic lunch which was pooled and was most enjoyable after a swim in the lake and perhaps a softball game, while the elders visited.

We always associate a quilting bee with a service group, such as the church and I do believe that one had barely finished a quilt when another was already planned.

The annual Sports Day was looked forward to with great anticipation by everyone. Baseball and softball teams gathered here and included teams from nearby towns such as Bashaw, Kelsey, Forestburg, Red Willow, Meeting Creek, etc. Races for all ages — tug-of-war and horseshoe were popular competitions. The winner was rewarded with a cone of ice cream and many would enter several age categories of racing in hopes of getting another cone or a nickel.

These Sports Days usually ended with a Bowery dance. A wooden floor was laid and the roof covered with fresh green branches forming a bower. Dancing lasted until the wee hours of the morning ending an exhausting but most satisfying day.

House parties were common and were usually held in the larger homes. Furniture was moved aside and local musicians were talked into displaying their talents. A variety of dances were the enjoyment of everyone, including the French Minuet, turkey trot, waltz quadrille, Charleston, polka, fox trot, old time waltz, Schottische, two step and of course the old time square dancing. Music was provided by anyone who could play an instrument regardless of what it was. Every community had a fiddle player and piano player! Their accompaniment could have been an improvised drum. This is where mother's pots and pans came in handy and perhaps some silverware too. We can't forget the fellow who played the comb. He used tissue paper on one side of the teeth of the comb and blew onto this much like a harmonica. Of course the mouth organ and the Jew's harp made a lovely sound. Modern square dancing has since become a favourite.

Since then rock music has flourished among the young and has been known as "slow, medium, hard or heavy, pop, punk" and so on. Currently, disco is the rage and it includes a modern form of the jive.

Sometimes the local meetings featured spelling matches or debates making for an interesting evening.

Spring and fall fowl suppers were not to be forgotten as the women worked hard to make them a success. It was a time for visiting also as distant neighbors were not seen as often as one would have liked.

Chautauqua was an assembly for education and entertainment of adults by lectures, concerts and cultural activities, originally held in Chautauqua, New York, hence the name. Gathering information from some of the original homesteaders these troupes probably visited Donalda twice. Their large tents were set up in the village where rows of buggies and wagons were seen bringing dozens of homesteaders eagerly awaiting to share in this cultural experience. This was a three evening combination of speakers and entertainers.

Minstrel shows were also known to have visited Donalda. These were individuals who played instruments, recited poetry, and sang songs, often of their own making. Clowning and joking around, these performers blackened their faces and hands with cork to resemble negroes.

It has been known that a travelling show consist-

ing of trained dogs, monkeys and a bear had been through Donalda.

Local talent plays were an annual event in most communities and the acting abilities of the unsuspected were discovered and were surely surprising.

Musical Festivals were competitions in the schools, between schools, in singing, playing a musical instrument, choruses, duets, trios, and solos judged by the adjudicators.

Curling in Donalda began in the late forties and has been a sport participated in with keen interest ever since.

Let's not forget the local movies in the old hall still a part of the main street in Donalda. Remember when a movie was thirty-five cents and we had a choice between Wednesday or Saturday night?



Ice Carnival in the '50's. Queen — Pat Wotherspoon, ladies in waiting: Joyce Williams and Donna Jones.



Don. Lawson clowning it up.



1955 Parade: Donalda Dudes and Dolls, Square Dance Club.



1955 Parade: The Donalda 4-H Garden Club. On the front the Jones twins Inez and Irene, in back Kathleen Halseth, Deanne McLellan, Sandra Fitzpatrick and Joyce Williams.



1955 Parade: Howard Gimby in the Buggy.



Doris and Beth on the ice at an Ice Carnival in the 50s.

Sports



Donalda Basketball Team May 1923. Rachel Stanvick, Ruth Green, Verlie Fitzpatrick, Nola Tucker. Mattie Seymour, Edna Winters, Hortense Ottison.



Donalda Curling Rink (approx. 1953). Harry Green; Casey Jones; Joe Tucker; Bob Holladay (Winston Clement in Background).

Willow Canyon ski hill hold official opening

(Mrs. A. Norman)

DONALDA, March 4th. — At 12 noon on Sunday, March 1st, Les Damberger, county councilor, wished the Ski Club lots of enjoyment on their new ski hill, and a late season for skiing. He then cut the ribbon officially opening the Willow Canyon ski hill, at Donalda.

Immediately following this brief ceremony, the enthusiastic skiers packed the tow solid for some time and the fun began.

Skiing conditions were perfect that day as about an inch and a half to two inches of fresh snow had just fallen on a good snow base.

The ski hill at present has four runs leading to the base of the tow, and three others require only a short walk. The rope tow lifts skiers a total of 300 feet, over a distance of 1100 feet at a speed of 9 miles per hour.

It is estimated that about 150 skiers were on the hill for the grand opening, and a few of these enjoyed a ski on Birch Hill. Folders describing the hill and its operation were, and are, available at the Cosy Willow Canyon Ski Chalet.

Willow Canyon Ski Club will sponsor a bingo on April 1st.



Skating.



Willow Canyon Ski hill.

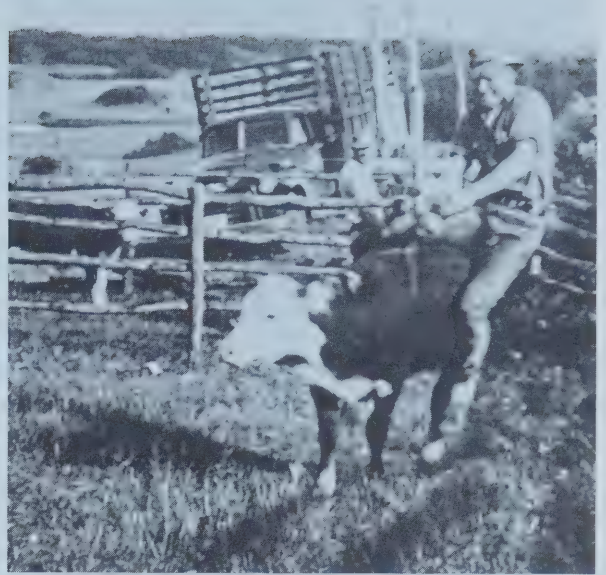


WILLOW CANYON OPEN — Willow Canyon Ski Club's facilities just north of D. pulled in new patrons Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays. More than 2,000 skiers enjoyed the run on Sunday. There is a lift from the top of the tow. There is a lift in the chair.

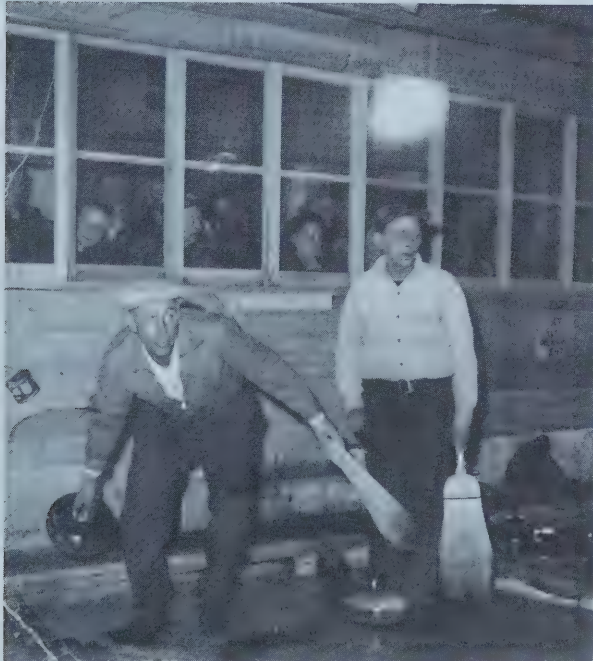
Willow canyon ski hill (newspaper).



Donaldda High School Basketball Team 1936. Provincial Champions. Back row: Ray McIntyre; Elmer Erickson; Barney Henrickson; Eugene Van Blarcom. Middle row: Lester Vikse; Joe Van Blarcom; Philip Stolee. Coach: Mr. Earl Hoover.



Amateur Rodeo with Harry Collin as star.



Lucy Holladay, Ole Anderson, Ina Damberger (viewers). Bob Holladay and Walter Solomonson (curlers).



Thomas Ulyett with coyote hounds.



Jim Dempsey learning to fly in World War 1 (1914-18).



Donaldda High School Basketball Team of 1936: Mysie McKay, Mary Heater, Margaret Moul, Ina Heisz, and Florence Vikse.



Donaldda Hockey Team 1947: Casey Jones, Ron ?, Andy McLellan, Ross McLellan, Arnold Stolee, Gordon Otteson, Ray Fitzpatrick, Don Ganton, Carl Stolee, and Henry Paege, sitting.



WESSINGTON BALL TEAM 1906 — Donaldda men were players on this early baseball team which played at Botha, Stettler and the picnic grounds near the Stratton farm. Their pitcher was Elmer

and Mike Dickey, was the captain. Back row, left to right: Melvin Tucker, Roland Arverill, Dad Dickey, John Kahl and Mr. Trundle. Middle row, Bill Robinson, Casper Henderl, Charlie Averill, Elmer

Newspaper picture of Wessington ball team.

A Big Day of SPORTS

AT
NORBO JULY 1ST
1908

PROGRAMME

EVENT	1st Prize	2nd Prize	EVENT	1st Prize	2nd Prize
Half Mile Horse Race	\$5	\$3	Obstacle Race	I	50c
Ladies' Half Mile Horse Race	3	2	Running high jump	I	50c
Quarter mile Pony race	2	1	Running hop-step-and-jump	I	50c
Quarter mile cow boy race	2	1	Standing broad jump	I	50c
100-yard footrace, men	2	1	Standing high jump	I	50c
Fifty Yard Egg Race	I	50c	Three-legged race	I	50c
Fifty Yard Sack Race	I	50c			

A Baseball Game is being arranged between the leading teams of the country

TUG-OF-WAR-Norbo vs. the World

Refreshments will be served on the grounds

BRASS BAND in Attendance

GRAND BALL in the **EVENING**

*It is J. Bjorges & sons that is fixing up this sports
so you can see we aint dead out here either. July 1 is
about the same out here as July the 4th*

Alberta

When the willow buds are waking,
Once again, to greet the light,
And I hear the gray-clad squadrons
Surging northward thro the night;
When along the gravelled beaches
Laughing waters rise and fall,
On the winds that sweep the prairies,
I can hear Alberta call.

When the meadow-lark is piping
In the fresh and dewy morn;
And the summer breeze is playing
Thro the fields of ripening corn,
Weary grows the daily routine,
And it's fain I am to be
Where the flower-decked hills of Summer
Rise around the inland sea.

And when the land lies dreaming
In the Autumn's golden haze:
When the hoarse call of the mallard
Floats along the marshy bays:
When from out the brush or stubble
Swift the startled coveys rise,
Prisoned here, I too am dreaming
Of those fair Alberta skies.

L. C. Hayes

Village of Donalda

Auctioneers and Cattle Buyers

Colorful people in the early days were the cattle buyers and the auctioneers. They seemed to go together. Records show that S. J. Broughton was an early auctioneer. He also bought cattle. Oscar Nordvie was also an auctioneer, and Alex Salmon.

Pat Murphy bought livestock, as did Fred Tebow, a man with very little education but who had



Donalda Stock Yards.

an outstanding memory. When he passed away Gordon Otteson took over the livestock business. He was followed by Bob Holladay and today Jack Dinsmore is the local livestock buyer.

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce

The first Bank in the Village of Donalda was the Merchants Bank of Canada. It was located west of where the Donalda Inn stands today. It started in about 1912. The first manager was Mr. McLeod. The Bank moved to its present location around 1913. Mr. Jackson was the manager in 1915.

In 1918, Mr. McDonald was manager, Archie Madison was accountant, Chester Stolee teller and Alfred Vikse was the Junior. Things were much different in those days. The staff (all men) lived



Merchants Bank of Canada, which burned down in 1918, along with the Sabie & Wright Hall at rear.

above the bank. The teller slept over the vault, as there was a hole in the floor so he could keep an eye on the securities, it was covered by a removable board. Alfred Vikse was custodian of the guns. He was also in charge of delivering cash in sealed bags to elevator agents at Heisler, Forestburg and Meeting Creek, so they could cash their grain tickets.

The staff all caught the flu in 1918 and were confined to bed. They took the cash upstairs with them so cheques could be cashed from there. A nurse came from Stettler to look after them, charging them four to five dollars per day. Aspirins were very scarce, but could be bought at the fantastic price of 3 for 25 cents. On November 11, they had heard rumors the war was over and had it verified when the train came through. The boys got up from their beds to watch the train covered with flags and blowing its whistle.

The wages in those days was in the neighbourhood of \$50.00 per month. \$2.00 was held back and given them if they stayed in the employment of the bank for two years. Any cash shortages were paid by the teller from his salary.

One day, Mr. McDonald took one of the bank guns and went hunting. The gun went off, shooting

him in the arm. Fortunately he got over it. Archie Madison left the bank to become a Member of the Legislative Assembly. Alfred Vikse still lives in Camrose.



Imperial Bank Of Canada

There were no adding machines until the forties in the branch, all posting was done by hand until 1960 when the bank received its first posting machine. By December 1979 the bank went Computer Posting.

The Bank of Montreal took over the Merchants Bank of Canada after the First World War. Mr. Richardson was the manager when the Bank of Montreal burned in the late twenties. The vault didn't

burn, it was left for several days to cool before the contents could be removed. The safe that was in that vault is the same safe which is used in the branch today. Banking facilities were then moved to a back room in Mr. Porter's office for a short period.

The Bank of Montreal did not want to rebuild, so the Imperial Bank of Canada built in the same location. Some of the previous managers were Mr. Brown, Mark Cook, Loren Graben, Jack Lyons, Jim Iverach and Geoff Scatchard, who was manager when the Imperial Bank of Canada amalgamated with the Canadian Bank of Commerce to become the



Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, 1979.

\$ 102 ²⁵/₁₀₀ Due Jan 21st 1900 May 21st 1900

6 months after date I promise to pay to the order of
J. C. Blomgren at
THE MERCHANTS' BANK OF CANADA, *Assaulta*
 the sum of *One Hundred Sixty two* ²⁵/₁₀₀ Dollars
 with interest at *7* per cent. per annum, both before and after maturity, till
 paid, for value received.

Witness: _____
 Witness: _____

Alfred Vikse
Lina Vikse



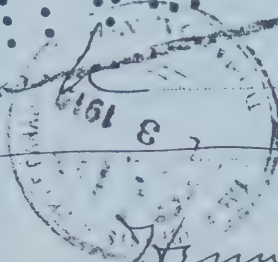
DONALDA, ALTA., July 3 1919

The Merchants Bank of Carleton Place

Pay Cash

or Bearer
XX Dollars

\$ 10.00



Henry M. Johnson

Interest Paid for Six
Months
Paid 15.00 on
May 30 1922

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in 1961. Managers since then have been Bob Stewart, Rod Daniels, Denis Olstad, Mike Hill, Gordon McPherson, Gerry Raffan and Ella Bailey. As was mentioned before, things are much different today than in 1918 when the bank had all male staff. Today the bank has an all female staff — Manager Ella Bailey, Accountant — Shirley Dhenin, Teller — Valerie Stanvik, Ledger Supervisor — Ina Damberger, Relief Teller and Ledger Keeper — Judy MacDonald, Part-Time Ledger Keeper — Sharon Rider.

During the depression years a farmer had to assign his life insurance as collateral to buy twine. Land wasn't considered as good collateral at that time. Interest rates — That's a whole new story.

The branch was held up by three armed men in August 1975. All three were caught and charged.

Miss Shirley Sheets
by Shirley M. Lindberg

It has been twenty-five years since I lived in the community and worked in the Imperial Bank. I worked there in company with Mr. Jim Iverach, manager, John Fraser, Accountant, Leroy Cham-

berlain, Teller, Joan Barnes, Teller, Shirley Dahl, Ledger Keeper, which was also my position. Being just out of school, I had a lot to learn but under the great assistance of everyone working there I soon caught on and spent nearly two years there. A note of interest: my yearly income at that time was \$1,000.00 per annum plus \$200.00 living allowance.

My first accommodations were the two rooms upstairs over the Clement Hardware Store where Leona Norman, Euma Bailey and I batched. Both of these girls worked for Don Ames in the Grocery Store.

When Leona left to get married we decided to seek board and room and I felt lucky to find Mrs. Minnie Fitzpatrick's where I stayed for a year and began soon to feel as a member of the family. At that



Shirley Sheets 1954.

time her grandson, Allan Steinhoff also came over from his A and E Groceteria for his noon meal. I remember the windy day the kitchen stove pipe became red hot and I worriedly called Charlie Steil and he called out the Fire Dept. I was teased about that for a long time.

When Miss Joan Barnes came to work at the bank we decided to live together and took up residence above Hjorth's Central Garage. This was a lovely big apartment but rather too much for two single girls as a few times the young folk felt it was a good meeting place which often lasted 'til all hours. Of course we had to work the next day and we soon decided to return to our good boarding houses.

Often when Mrs. Fitzpatrick was away from home for a few days Mrs. Lena Otteson was kind enough to have me and she lived so close to the bank that it was a real treat. I sometime felt frightened to stay there alone as she told us that at one time someone had wandered into the back door and went downstairs. The old imagination really got worked overtime on that.

I am now married to Charles Lindberg and we have a family of four; Wally, Randy, Jill and Corrine. We operate the Camrose Livestock Buying Station and the trucking of livestock and grain keep us busy. I have kept up my interest in bookkeeping in the family business as well as at the Daysland Auction Mart.

Berval Mfg. (Donalda) Ltd

Berval Mfg. (Donalda) Ltd. was incorporated under the laws of the Province of Alberta on July 30, 1978 and has its registered office at Donalda, Alberta. The officers and directors of the company are Rod Stanvik of Donalda, Alberta and Huibert DeBoon of Meeting Creek, Alberta. Rod Stanvik is a native of Donalda, having grown up here and completing his schooling here. Mr. DeBoon is a native of Holland having emigrated to Canada in 1951.

The name Berval was derived from the first names of Bertha DeBoon and Valerie Stanvik, the wives of the aforementioned partners of the company. The company was formed for the manufacture of fiberglass products. At the present time (1979) Berval is manufacturing steps that are sold in Western Canada, fire truck tanks that are sold and distributed throughout Canada, the United States and North West Territories, and powerline marker balls used to mark high voltage power lines above rivers and airports.

Fiberglass has a history dating back to Egyptian times. Fiberglass re-inforced products are extremely strong and light weight and can be molded, shaped,

twisted and poured for many uses such as boat hulls, building panels, automobile and aircraft parts, tanks, bins, steps, etc. Cloth or matt gives strength to the product and resin is the plastic that binds the fibre-glass together. A catalyst, or setting up agent is mixed in with the resin along with pigment which is a very thick mixture and which comes in a large selection of colors. All of these materials are applied to a mold or to wood surfaces to give the final product.

At the time of this writing Berval is manufacturing its products in the buildings which were the former John Deere shop and the former theatre in Donalda, and has planned a new facility for its operations in the industrial section of the Village.

Blacksmiths

The blacksmith was very important to the farmers in the early days and only with the coming of the tractor did he give way to the machine shop. Oscar Olsen was one of the first blacksmiths, along with Fred Jones, A. Johnson and Mr. Wilson. John Norman lived with his wife and children on the northeast corner across from the United Church, and had his blacksmith shop there for many years.

Herb Barley had his blacksmith shop east of the Creamery and was our last blacksmith.

Albert Larsen operated a welding shop in the old Whitehorn garage for a few years. Later Emil and Henry Eichhorn opened up a machine shop. They did blacksmithing and welding as well.

Butchers

The butcher shop on the north side of main street was operated by Alf Lee, F. F. and F. C. Bowning, Mr. Bonitz and Chris Lausen. In 1948 Mr. Lausen moved his shop to the new Donalda Locker Plant which he operated until his retirement. He was followed by Wm. Sawers, Don Lawson and Archie Seufert. Mr. Seufert managed this shop from 1970 to 1978, when it was closed.

The Locker Plant was built to fill a need for storage for frozen foods. It is interesting to note the names of the persons responsible for gathering the money and building this plant: A. J. Vikse, F. A. Henke, W. Hanseth, C. Lausen, R. Hillaby, R. Y. Wotherspoon, S. W. Cram, O. H. Anderson, O. M. Vikse, B. A. Vikse. The plant was a success and was paid for within five years.

However, with the coming of home freezers, it was not needed as much and in 1978 the plant was closed.

Chinese Cafes

Chinese Cafes were a must in all small communi-

ties, without them many workers would not have survived, they served the public at all hours of the day or night even supplied sleeping accommodation for those in need.



Jim Pon — Cafe Owner.



Num Poon ready to wash the Cafe windows, April, 1959.

Poon, Num — Norman and Wing

Wing and Num Poon came to Donalda in 1953 to operate a cafe. It was situated on the north side of main street, but since then has been torn down.

The cafe was rented from Olson Bros. for thirty dollars a month. In 1955 Wing and Num bought the building for eleven hundred dollars.

Norman a cousin of Num's joined them to help with the business. Mr. Don Lawson helped to renovate and insulate the building.

Wing retired in 1963 and returned to China. He passed away in 1966 at the age of 83 years.

The cafe closed May 2nd, 1964. Num then made a trip back to China to get his wife Judy, August 1964. They moved to Montreal, Quebec, returning to Alberta in 1974 and settling in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, where they have a thriving business and a new home.

Num and Judy were married in Hong Kong, China Feb. 28th, 1958. They have four children Susan, Alison, Dick and Patricia, all doing well at school and love it in Alberta.

Num enjoyed the years spent in Donalda with all the fine people and many friends he made.

Norman Poon is in Edmonton, married and has a family.

Poon, Jim

Jim Poon was in the cafe business for many years in Donalda.

In the late forties he brought his wife and family over from China, Seem and Yee who attended school here for a while. There was a son born while they were here.

Shortly after he sold the cafe business and moved to Edmonton where he operated a corner store.

Donalda Creamery

In 1924 a Co-operative Creamery (Woodland Dairy) was opened in Donalda and operated by Greenbo and Paege. In 1931 Henry Paege owned and operated the Donalda Creamery. It was that same year that he decided to install a Power Plant, which he did the following year (this story under the heading — Electricity). Percy Jones commenced working at the Creamery in 1931 for Henry Paege.

Henry Paege sold the Donalda Creamery to Bailey and Toppenburg, who operated it for a couple of years. They sold it back to Henry Paege and Jim Otteson; later Henry bought out Jim's interest.

In 1937 Mr. Paege and some local farmers called a meeting to form a Co-operative Creamery, which is still in operation.

Henry Paege was hired as manager at \$1,200.00



Donalda Creamery, about 1937-38. Henry Paege, Clifford Rasmussen, Percy Jones.



In Front of the Creamery, L-R Percy Jones, Lawrence Lloyd, Henry Paege.

salary a year, on a trial basis of ten years. In 1948 Henry moved to Chipman, Alberta to operate a creamery there.

Percy Jones became the manager of the Donalda Co-operative Creamery in 1947, remaining in that position until his retirement in 1975. Vic Stuckey served as manager from 1975 until the spring of 1979, when Archie Armstrong took over the position.

In 1946 a meeting was called, as the Central Alberta Dairy Pool wanted this creamery, but the feeling of the local farmers was strong enough to keep the Donalda Co-op Creamery. As far as we know, it is the only local farmer owned and operated creamery operating in Central Alberta.

"Donalda Maid" butter was shown across Canada at different Exhibitions and won many prizes. You can still buy "Donalda Maid" butter in our local store and neighboring towns, but the bulk of it is shipped to the Central Dairy Pool.

The Donalda Co-op also operated an egg grading station until the Government regulations closed out all of the small operators.

The first board of directors were: H. E. Albright, Roy Sheets, Miss M. Lawrie, L. F. Williams, A. Haywood, H. W. McKay & A. J. Vikse. Alfred J.



Donaldda Creamery Board — 1963. Back row; Percy Rider; Otto Paulson; Carl Kline; Fred Winters; Laurie Williams; Percy Jones. Front row: Alfred Vikse; Fred Henke; Sid Cram. Hedley McKay; Mike Vikse.

Vikse, Otto Paulson and Sid Cram served on the board of directors for twenty-five years or more.

Those on the board of directors in 1979 are: Carl Kline — Pres., Herb Awe — Sec., Jack Lyster, Alfred Zurfluh, Lloyd Walgenbach and Allan Baird.

“Donaldda Maid” butter made in 1941 was 177,599 pounds, 1965 was 714,466 pounds, 1977 was 290,860 pounds.

Money paid in cash bonuses and reserve Share Certificates: 1949 to March 1962 — \$72,772.00 back to producers.

Donaldda District Development Company Limited

submitted by Beth Lawson

In the “Coulee Review” booklet issued July 21, 1973 on Donaldda’s 60th Anniversary by the Donaldda Senior Citizens Club, we asked for help on any information regarding this government seal. Valerie Stolee was kind enough to go the Companies Branch Office in Edmonton, coming up with the following (plus more) information, of which we owe our thanks for this valuable bit of Donaldda History.

Donaldda District Development Co. Ltd. was incorporated as a limited company on July 25th, 1925 and was struck off the register on August 31st, 1935. Which means that the company ceased to exist. The purpose of the company was for the development of buildings in the town, as a creamery, cheese factory, warehouse, public hall, store, or manufacturing establishment, and to lease, sell or mortgage, exchange and buying and selling buildings or land. Also for the purposes of building roads, bridges, reservoirs, drains, wells, factories, warehouses, stores and shops.

The last annual company report filed for the company was in 1933 and at that time the directors listed were as follows:

William E. Porter
Clarence A. DeWitt
Eddy H. Green
J. Rosenberg Stolee

The directors of the company in 1924 were:

A. C. Anderson
C. A. DeWitt
W. E. Porter
D. J. McKay
C. A. Fender

The corporate seal which was found in the old office of Donaldda’s only lawyer, J.W. Dempsey by Hazel Jones was given to Don and Beth Lawson to put into their Mini Museum, with information from Valerie Stolee, and will be passed on to the Village for the Donaldda Museum.

The corporate seal is the seal required under the Companies Act which all companies must use in legally executing documents. Signatures of the President and Secretary of the company usually under seal, signify that any document has been signed officially by the company on behalf of its members, by the appropriate signing authorities.

Along with this report is a complete list of the shareholders which remained the same in 1933 as it was in 1924.

The capital of the company was three thousand and five hundred divided into three hundred and fifty shares of ten dollars each. Each of the shareholders were paid a total of fifteen dollars and thirty cents for each share.

It is interesting to note that the only surviving (or at least in the area at this time) of the one hundred shareholders is Sam Pearce of Meeting Creek.

LIST OF SHAREHOLDERS

Mitchinson: Joseph	Losie, James
Fender: David C.	Mitchinson, Arthur
Smith: Len J.	Damberger, Max M.
Green: Eddy H.	Johnson, Isaac
Erickson, Fred	Stolee, Rosenberg
Denney, Solomon E.	Persinger, Walter
Creighton, George	Tucker, Melvin
Henley, Edward	Johnson, Jonas O.
Creighton, Nancy	Williams, L. F.
McIntyre, Walter L.	Vikse, Conrad
Dahl, Martin	Johnson, Helmer J.
Johnson, Peter N.	Richardson, A. T.
Hestness, Bernt	Dawe, William
McLellan, Joel H.	Jerstad, Jens
Dawe, Emily H.	Zuehlke, Jacob
Jones, Chas. O	Stanvik, Peter P.



Bergstrom, John	Murphy, Mrs. Ella
Olson, Mathias	Johnson, Carl
McKay, Jacob E.	Kahl, W. C.
Roberts, Bert A.	Plahn, Wm. F.
Jud, A. L.	Gale, Cecil M.
Nystrom, J. E.	Heisz, Roy
Stanvik, Iver	Salstrom, Lenord
Bailey, Lawrence W.	Mathewson, Grace
Johnson, Victor	Tebow, Fred
Olson, Peter A.	City Cafe
Grice, Edward W. I	Vikse Bros.
Christensen, J. L.	Paterson, James
Anderson, Ole H.	Peterson Bros. (C.))
Downing, F. F. & F. C.	Porter, Wm. E.
Rhynes, James B. .	Revelstoke Sawmill Co.
Fitzpatrick, Jerry	Heater, Edward E.
Edenloff, N. O.	Pearce, Samuel
Malbouf, George.	DeWitt, Clarence A.
Rasmussen, Jens P.	Martin, Frank
Hammarberg, Erik	Jacobson, Ole
Sommers, Andrew M.	Stanvik, Ole
McKay, Hedley W.	Russell, Bert G.
Pickering, Mrs. W. T.	McKay, David J.
Otteson, S. C.	Lee, W. E.
Hagen, J. J.	Cook, Joseph
Dempsey, James W.	Preston, Thos. J.
Nordblad, Nels P.	Roseberry, Marvin
Young, Ernest	Berg, Alfred
Village of Donalda	Albright, Homer E.
Johnson, Henry M.	Bonitz, Henry M.
Hughson, I. N.	Hagen, Edward
Anderson, A. C.	Dahl, Lars
Clifford, E. S.	Rake, D. A.
Friberg, Gustaf	

100 Shareholders. It was people like these that really gave us what we have today; a Donalda to be proud of.

Doctors

One of the first doctors to care for the ill in this area was Dr. Creighton from Stettler. Occasionally a Dr. McLeod from Ferintosh was called in.



Doctor and Mrs. Wm. Morley Hodgson and son Donald.

Other Doctors were Dr. Wall who resided in town for a few years. The house he built and lived in is still standing, across the street and east of Danny McDonalds. Due to his wife's ill health, he moved to Hollywood, California.

Other Doctors were Dr. Bell, Dr. Bond, Dr. Oldwright, Dr. Jackson and Dr. Hodgson. Dr. Jackson practised from 1925 to 1934. He was truly a "country doctor" driving many miles in all types of weather to aid the sick.

Electricity in Donalda

It was the year 1931 that Henry Paege, who owned and operated the Donalda Creamery decided to put in a power plant to supply electricity to the town. The next year, electricity came to Donalda. The plant operated from 7:A.M. to 1:00 A.M. daily.

It was run in conjunction with the creamery and Percy Jones who worked there at the time, remembers how their Sundays would be spent; no Sundays off for the boys in those days. On Sundays they would have to go to Wainwright for fuel to operate the power plant. No gravelled roads or snow ploughing done then, each on his own. What trips some of these men remember!

There are records of all the electricity used from 1932 to the end of 1942, which must have been when Canadian Utilities started supplying the Village with electricity from Drumheller, (before the Battle River Plant was built). While Canadian Utilities served Donalda with power they had a man stationed in town

Kokoppe-Indpodnings-Attest.

Ole

født i *Norde Fron* af Forældrene *Peder Iversen*
Standsrigsranden og *Marit Olsdatter*

og boende i samme *Forstegjæd*

1879 den *29de Juli* *3 Aar* gammel, er af mig Understrevet, har
indpodet med Kokopper. Ved nsi-
agtigt Eftersyn imellem den 7de og 9de Dag efter Indpodningen
har jeg fundet alle de Tegne, som vise dem at være de ægte Ko-
kopper; de vare nemlig hele og ubeskadigede, opfyldte med en klar
Vædske, i Midten nedtrykkede, og omgivne med en rød Cirkel;

Ole

har da ordentlig gennemgaaet de ægte Kokopper, som bestøtte
for Bornekopper; hvilket herved, paa Hæd og Samdittighed,
bevidnes af

Byhar den *2den September* Aar *1879*

Certificate of Acknowledgement. Ole born in — "Norde Fron"
of parents Peder Iversen Standsrigsranden and wife Marit
Olsdatter and lived in the same district. At three years of age
The undersigned, witnessed his vaccination for Smallpox —
July 29, 1879. Signs on the seventh to ninth day proves that it
was successful immunization. Ole — has then properly gone
through the act of vaccination for Smallpox. — Witnessed by
— Byhar — September second, 1879. — Elsin Ellefsen.

Elsine Ellefsen

to take care of troubles. Some of these men were Jim
Patton, Earl Giffen and Don Schmitz.

It is interesting to see by the books that even
businesses could get a flat rate of only \$1.50 a month
for power used. The highest amount paid was by the
creamery—\$25.00 a month, and next the Village at
\$22.00, later going on a flat rate of \$21.50 a month.

In 1934 the total revenue was 234.20.

Expenses:

Fuel Oil, 6 barrels	\$ 32.40
Lubrication Oil	9.70
Gas and distilled water	4.05
Battery and Connector	10.70
Wages	45.00
	\$101.85

Profit \$132.35

Donalda is now served by Alberta Power Li-
mited, and the service crew lives in Stettler.

The Grain Buying Business in Donalda

by Lyle Fitzpatrick

In July 1942 I started buying grain for the Searle Grain Co. At that time there were four grain companies, The Alberta Wheat Pool, Searle Grain Co., United Grain Growers and the Gillespie Grain Co. The Alberta Wheat Pool was managed by Ted Moen, Searle Grain Co. by myself, taking over from Floyd Oberg of Forestburg, the United Grain Growers by Pete Rasmussen, and the Gillespie Grain Co. by Chris Jenson. The Gillespie Grain Co. sold out to the United Grain Growers and it was managed by Pete Rasmussen until he retired. Ray Carlson then took over with Ray Shantz helping for a while until he moved to Red Willow, Ray Carlson was here for many years, and then transferred to Red Deer. Mr. Bert Lebeck then took over, then Paul Klausen, Wilbur Blomgren, Ron McMeekan and Donald Strandquist.

In the meantime in 1967 the Searle Grain Co., the Federal Grain Co. and the Alberta Pacific Grain Co. amalgamated and it was called the Federal Grain Co., and they took over the two United Grain Growers Elevators. I then had three elevators to manage. Ted Moen was moved to Millet and Rollie Griffin was the manager for the Alberta Wheat Pool for many years, until he retired and moved to Calgary. Mr. Balance managed it for awhile until Casper Froebel came and he is still here.

In 1972 the Alberta Wheat Pool bought out the Federal Grain Co. and I stayed on until May 15, 1978, when I retired because of poor health, after buying grain for thirty-six years.

When I first started buying grain I took in about fifty to sixty thousand bushels of grain a year, and it worked up to two hundred thousand to three hundred thousand a year.

Alberta Wheat Pool

In 1927, when the Alberta Wheat Pool decided to build an elevator in Donalda, B. Carl Johnson was the first agent. He was agent until 1934.

Ted Moen — 1934-1947

Rolly Griffin — Sept. 1947-June 1964

Brian Ballance — July 1964-June 1966

Lyle Fitzpatrick — March 1972-May 1978

Casper Froebel — June 1966-to present

The Alberta Wheat Pool built a balloon annex alongside the elevator in the early 1940's. In the early '50's additional storage was required and the Empire Garage was rented for a time. The balloon annex was replaced by a new elevator in 1966. This elevator was finally a reality after a committee made up of: Mike

Stolee, Ken Johanson, Albert Norman, Willie Christians were instrumental in convincing the Alberta Wheat Pool head office of the need of a new facility. This was in 1960 or 1961 and Donalda was put on a five year plan. Construction of this new elevator began in June of 1966. At the opening on August 23rd, 1966, Mayor Casey Jones cut the ribbon. There were over 100 people attending. Many were former agents and retired farmers.

According to membership numbers in the Alberta Wheat Pool, Gus Norman was honored as the oldest member and Dennis Helfer as the youngest member, delivering the first and second loads of grain.

The takeover of Federal Grain Co. by the Alberta Wheat Pool was in March of 1972.

Delegates for the Alberta Wheat Pool over the years have been:

W. G. Brady — Edberg, 1923.

Daniel Rabbit — Daysland, 1924.

T. C. Barrett — Red Willow, 1925-1927.

J. Baird — Red Willow, 1928-1929.

M. R. Holder — Stettler, 1930-1937.

J. F. Long — Gadsby, 1938.

J. Baird — Red Willow, 1939-1951.

R. M. Haner — Red Willow, 1952-1954.

O. M. Vikse — Donalda, 1955.

Charlie Hayes — Strome, 1956-1968.

Willie Christians — Donalda, 1969-1977.

John Pearson — Donalda, 1978 to present.

Travelling Superintendents for the Alberta Wheat Pool for the Donalda area have been:

L. Hamilton — 1948-1950

O. Meyers — 1950-1952

“Mac” McCurdy — 1952-1969

Buster Dillingham — 1969-1972

Alf Sloan — 1972 to present.

Elevators

Donalda's first elevator was built in 1911 by Mr. Imeson, who operated it one year then sold out to the Gillespie Grain Company, one of whose long time agents was Bert Russell. Eventually, this establishment became the United Grain Growers elevator, with Peter Rasmussen, as one of its prominent operators. Donalda resident, Colin McKay remembers delivering the first load of grain to this elevator and long line-ups of farmers and their grain wagons were common. Alfred Hestness recalls rising as early as 2:30 a.m. to be near the first of the line. Donalda's second elevator was a co-operative venture. Shares were sold to farmers and businessmen and the Alberta Farmer's Co-operative Elevator Company started, later to become the Albert Wheat Pool. Vic Anderson and George Henrickson were the first agents. The Home Grain Company Elevator was built in 1926

and J. R. Stolee was the first agent. Around 1932, this elevator was taken over by the Searle Grain Company.

This article was taken from the book written in 1963, "Fifty Years on the Coulee Rim".

Donalda Feed Mill

In 1954 Harry Green, Joe Tucker and Bob Holladay bought the Stettler Flour Mill to use as a feed mill. The moving of this building was a massive undertaking. The biggest moving job ever attempted in Alberta up to that time. After many difficulties the building reached Donalda on Christmas Eve 1954.

Don Potter became a partner of Bob Holladay in 1957 and operated the feed mill for ten years. At that time John Skene took over and ran the mill until its closing in 1974.

The Gas Station

The Gas Station is one of Donalda's businesses which offers retail gas sales and a coin operated car wash for customers in Donalda and surrounding district. The Gas Station, a division of R. Stanvik Marketing Ltd., is owned by Rod and Val Stanvik, officers and directors of the company, and is housed in a new building just opposite the railway crossing into Donalda. The business and building were established in 1976.

Donalda Garages

by Beth Lawson

Garages and Implement dealers were an important part of the early days. Mr. Stan Greenaway, Mr. Haneline and Mr. E. Whitehorn operated garages. Also Flynn and Stanlake, J. L. Christenson. A. S. Woodside was an early machine agent for I.H.C. H. E. Murat bought a harness and shoemaker business from Ben Carmen in the early twenties. He later became a machine agent for Renfrew Cockshutt and John Deere companies. Later sold to Gordon Otteson. Bob Holladay bought out Gordon Otteson. Jim Otteson was also a machine agent for Massey Harris, later selling to Winston Clement.

Harold and Laura Hjorth built the Central Garage in 1934 after coming from Markerville. The garage is still operated by Eric Hjorth and Laura Hjorth is still helping her son forty-five years later.

Sherman Jones after coming home from World War Two built the Veteran Garage. Later operated by Walter Halseth who sold to Jerry Konschuh who sold to Rodney Stanvik. Rodney built a new building which is now the car wash, and the office for Johnny Matheson who operates a Vending Machine Co.

Fred Hilker had one of the earlier garages, it was



Empire Garage.

situated over near the present creamery. Fred's garage burned down in the early twenties.

Mr. Whitehorn's garage The Empire Garage was sold to Albert Larson who operated a welding shop and later sold to Art Gerlach.

Mr. Albert Hilde was an early garage owner and operator on the present site of Clement Hardware.

Interesting to note that Lawrence Lloyd was a mechanic in Ells Whitehorns garage.

It is recorded that N. J. Holte of Bashaw operated a car agency in Donalda with L. H. Cullerne of Donalda as manager.

Donalda General Stores

There were established business in the Donalda area before there was a Donalda.

S. P. Lee had a general store and Post office called "Harker Store". It was located on the land that Les Damberger now farms. In 1909 he moved it to the present site of Donalda. Another store was owned by a Mr. Martin who lived on the land later owned by Fred Erickson who sold it to Emil Fischback. This land was finally sold to Richard Cram.

One of the early stores was operated by O. M. Vikse and his brother August Vikse. They had purchased the stock of the Ellefson store north of Donalda and moved it to the S. P. Lee building, later moved to the Oddfellows Hall. They eventually moved to the Wallace's store which had been occupied by DeWitt, Murphy, McCabe and Tucker. They operated the general store until 1954, having been in business for forty years.

Vikse's store was sold to Allan Steinhoff and Eric Hjorth as the A. & E. Grocery. Later it was sold to Gordon Knudtson who achieved a life long ambition to own a store. He found that he liked farming better so sold out to Ruth and Keith McLellan who operated it until poor health caused them to sell out.

The building is now "Eric's" Amusement Parlor and is owned by Eric Hjorth.

C. B. Murphy was a very versatile man. He came to the Donalda district and homesteaded. Later

moved to town to go into business with C. A. De-Witt. They were in several ventures together. Mr. Murphy operated a general store, drug store and ice cream parlor and later a radio shop. One of the first ones to master the intricacies of radio. He is remembered as a young man playing baseball, sliding into second base with a pocket full of matches, which ignited. He was a very busy young man putting out the fire.

The store was later bought out by his daughter Faye, and her husband Clarence (Kelly) Huff. Mr. Murphy was the Notary Public in Donalda and also ran a real estate office at one time.

An early store was operated as Wallace's General Store. Robert and Harry owned it. They lived where Ralph Tate now lives.

The S. P. Lee building on the north side of the street housed many businesses such as Martin Store, Boags, Pattersons, Oatway, and Rudd Bakery, and finally was the Dukes Harness and Shoe Shop. Mr. Duke had the building torn down and he moved to Stettler.

The brick building built by Mr. Butzer on the south side of main street saw many merchants serve the community. After Mr. Butzer came Brown and Rodd, the Quesseth Brothers, T. C. Patterson, Cliff Tuckey, Don Ames, Don Peterson, Clarence (Kelly) Huff, Don Lawson & Bert Lebeck, Don Lawson & Eugene Mykytiw, Don Lawson, Wm. Sawers, Don Lawson, Jim Fischbach and the present owners Mr. and Mrs. Myron Gulka.

Other general stores were Wallace's General Store, Lowry's Store, very early a Mr. Tupper had a store and Tom Wilton Store Ltd.

L. B. Olson had a Harness and Shoe Shop in the early days.

Names to be remembered as they do not fit in any previous vocation;

Earl Porter, secretary of the town for many years. He also sold real estate.

J. W. Dempsey was our first and only barrister.

Otto Rudd was our first and only baker. He started his bakery shop in the present Clement Hardware building, and later moved to the S. P. Lee building. His oldest daughter, Evelyn, (Mrs. Casey Jones) lives in Donalda.

Leslie Bell, a licensed druggist built what was called the Murphy building in 1911. He possessed the first telephone in Donalda. Within a few years, Collin Murphy bought him out and added an ice cream parlor. Later with W. E. Porter as a partner, they carried on a real estate business in the back after the store was enlarged.

Sometime later, J. W. Dempsey and Porter built

on the south side of the street and the Real Estate business moved from the Murphy building. This building later became the Gimby Insurance place.

Drug stores were operated as the Bell and Murphy Drug Store, Ryan Drug Store and C. B. Murphy had a drug department in his store in the later years.

When Ryans had a new baby, the operator of the Chinese restaurant across the street was heard to say, "Jimmy Lyans baby cly all time".

James Fischbach Family

In September of 1970, Jim and Jackie Fischbach came to Donalda with their two sons Brent Allan age 4 and Bryan Warren age 2. We took over the Red and White Store which we purchased from Don and Beth Lawson. We called it Jim's Lucky Dollar Foods.

We arrived just in time to be greeted by one of the earliest snowfalls, and the days that followed were cold and wintery. We were in the process of installing a new furnace in the store, so it was a grand sight for us when the sun came shining through to welcome the beautiful fall weather that followed.

We had our grand opening in February of 1971 in recognition of Donalda's annual Klondike Nights. Prices included such specials as: Donalda Maid Butter — 69¢ lb., Nabob Coffee — 95¢ lb., Bread — 5 loaves for \$1.00, 20 lb. Dutch Flour — \$1.49, Picnic Hams — 39¢ lb.



Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Patterson and sons Jim and Ian. Mr. Patterson was proprietor of the General Store in Donalda from the mid 1920's to 1940's.

In the winter of 1974, Donalda recorded a snowfall of ninety-six inches, to make that winter a memorable occasion. The country roads were very heavily drifted and few people could get to town. Some people travelled by snowmobile for grocery necessities. A third son Dean James was born in March at the Red Deer General Hospital, at this time the roads were still heavily drifted.

Jim served on the Village Council from 1973 to 1978 when the store was sold to Myron and Brenda Gulka of Calgary, and we moved our family to Camrose.

Jim enjoyed curling very much; the boys enjoyed Cubs — as did their mother who was leader and helper. The boys took part in all other school activities and attended the Sharon Lutheran Sunday School.

Hardware Stores

The records show that Mr. Graham formed a partnership with Mr. Foster and started a hardware store located near the old egg grading station.

The Queseth Brothers operated an early hardware, followed by Brown and Rodd. The stock of their store was purchased by the Anderson Brothers who operated the hardware from 1918 to 1924. Their store, along with the Lowry store, and Murphy's hall burned down in 1924. At that time Vic Anderson moved to Edberg and Ole Anderson rebuilt the store and operated it until 1947. That year he sold his



Donalda Hardware in 1924, before the fire.



The ruins of the stores after the fire in 1924, Donalda Hardware, Lowery General Store and the Murphy Hall.

business to C. F. Jones and Bob Wotherspoon who operated it until 1969.

Mr. Ed Grice operated a Tinsmith and Plumbing Shop and later put in a stock of hardware. He sold it to Winston Clement who moved the stock to the present site. Winston Clement, with his son, Garry, still operate the store.

Hotels

The story of the Donalda Hotel would fill a book. S. N. Haviland built the first hotel in 1912. He also operated a livery stable and drove prospective settlers in a lumber wagon. Someone remembers that he had a driver named Fats in 1912.

Original owners of the Donalda Hotel were the Calgary Wine and Spirits Company. Other renters and early owners were J. Matheson, John Tucker, Mr. Spokely operated during prohibition and called it "The Spokely Hotel". Other operators were Ed Matheson, John VanDam, Jim Lett and Fred Wailing. Don Haggerty bought the hotel in 1934 and installed running water. The building had 20 rooms with seating capacity for one hundred patrons at the bar. It covered lots 1,2,3 and 4 on Railway Street. Carbide lamps hung from the ceiling, later replaced by gas lamps, then electric.

Ed Reidner was the owner who took off the third storey and stuccoed the outside. Paul Beebe was an owner, as were Walter Mykytiw and Geo Stefura, Ted Pokorski, and Carl Johnson. George Serna was the owner when it burned down. There was a coffee shop and a lobby in the building.

For a few years Donalda was without a hotel. Later Reil Bougavoire and Al Kruger bought the hotel at Meeting Creek and moved it to Donalda. They remodelled it and operated it as Donalda Inn.

The Kelendorf family bought out Reil Bougavoire, and later sold it to Orin Sand and his son, who are presently operating it.

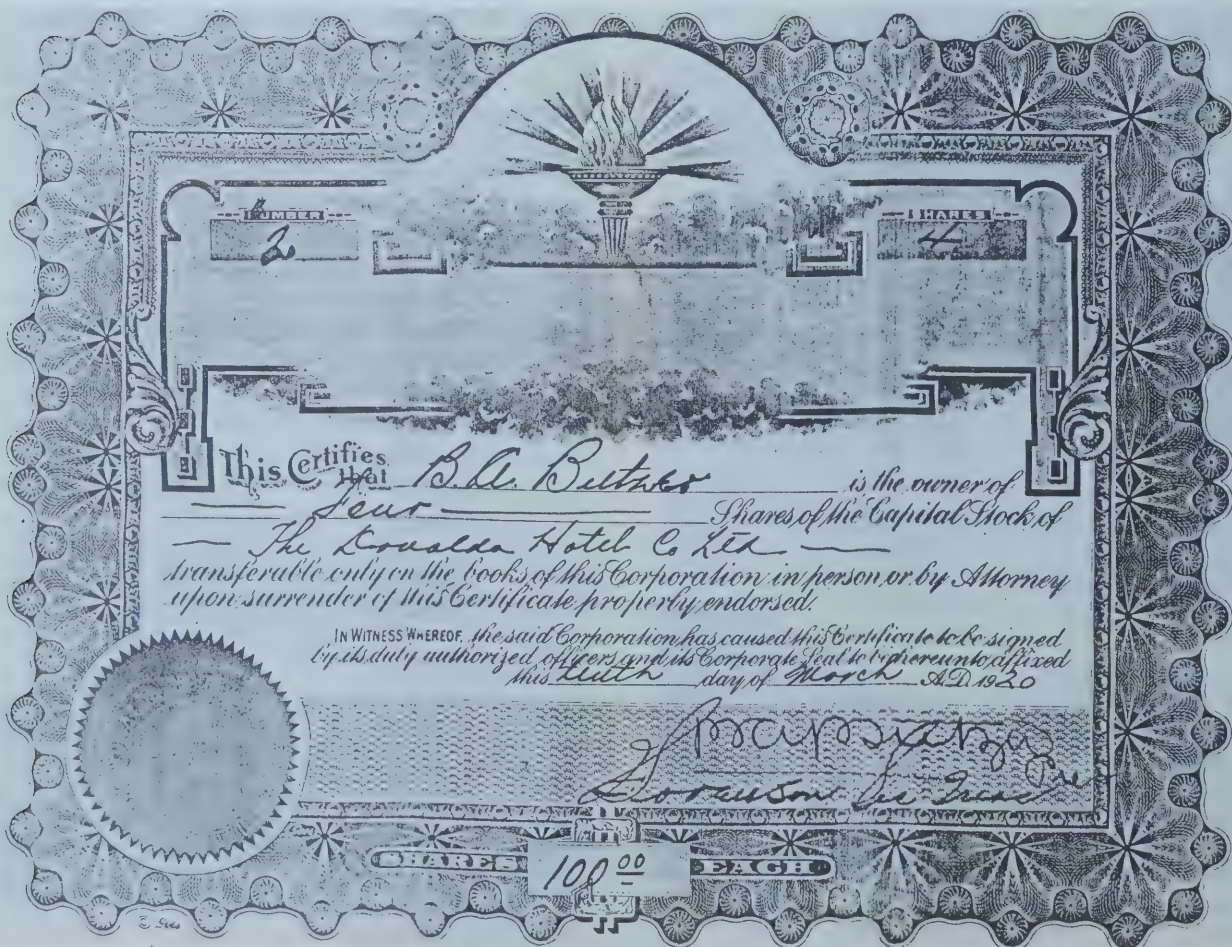
C. H. Jensen also had a hotel called the "Donalda



The Hotel, Donalda, Alta.



Man Burned in Donalda Fire. The Village of Donalda received a grievous blow in the loss of its hotel early Monday morning to fire in which Albert Massey 76 died. Mr. Massey, a retired pensioner was the only permanent guest of the hotel. Manager, Adam Serna and his wife and three children, Debbie, 14, Karen, 12 and Steven 4, escaped. Value of the 60 year old hotel was placed at around \$75,000. Mr. Serna awoke at 3:30 to find the fire well advanced. The volunteer fire brigade concentrated their efforts in saving surrounding buildings which were threatened by sparks. Fire crews from Bashaw assisted. The remains of Mr. Massey will be buried at Hudson Bay, near Tisdale, Sask. where he came from 2 years previously to visit friends and then moved into the hotel. He was a quiet man who had few friends. There are no known relatives. He was believed to have been of Arabic descent.





Donalda Hotel Bar, 1915.



New Hotel. C. H. Jensen's Boarding House. The wedding reception of the Rev. John Alver and Vernie Russel (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Russel). All of Rev. Alver's congregations are in attendance.

New Hotel" across from the C.N.R. depot. Later it became the Cosy Inn Cafe run by Mr. and Mrs. McMurray. It was later used as a residence by Mr. and Mrs. Ole Erickson and finally Keith and Ruth McLellan made it their home.

Livery Barns

Taken from the Camrose Canadian June 15, 1955

Livery Barn Assisted Land Agents.

Max Damberger was perhaps the first established business man in Donalda, and his business, a livery and draying barn, necessarily went downhill after the influx of motor cars. He built his first livery barn on the present townsite in 1908. He recalls that it took him two and one half hours to drive the winding trail to Stettler with a driving team and buggy. A round trip could be made in a day with a load of freight. He also hauled water from his well to early Donalda residents for twenty-five cents a barrel. It was very wet in those first years, Mr. Damberger recalls.

In 1912, he hauled wheat from one and one-half miles south of town for Fred Ullman that averaged forty-seven bushels to the acre. He was actually in partnership with Joe Paulus until 1910 and the two men carried on a brisk business driving travellers to

surrounding towns, freighting lumber, hardware and groceries from Stettler before the railroad came through. His building was situated across the street from where the present creamery building now stands.

The men used to charge by the hundred weight so as to make at least six dollars a day. The charge for the livery team was the same after the railroad came through, Max Damberger unloaded car lots of lumber, flour, brick, etc. for twelve dollars per carload. He also dug cellars and wells including the town well. Wells were dug from sixteen to forty feet in one day.

Equipment for his livery included two driving teams, two heavy work teams, two driving buggies



The livery barn and one of dray teams — Baldy and Dan. From 1926 to 1942 three teams served — the first Jim and George were the longest serving and best known. Later Baldy and Dan served for a short time but were sold to Quebec farmers and Ches and Kate took over.



Billy Robinson with dray team Ches and Kate in front of the second largest building in Donalda, the Livery Barn in the early 1930's.



The old and the new — the big livery barn with the sign Stolee Bros. Livery and Garage above the door in 1929. The children are cousins Ralph Robinson and Larry Larson.

and one democrat as well as wagons. The business was sold to Fred Hilker.

Haviland, who built the hotel, built himself a barn just south of the business of Dambergers and purchased his equipment and horses to use to drive his patrons consisting of travelling salesmen, cattle buyers, etc.

Max Dambergers livery stable later had to be moved because when they surveyed the village, he was on a survey line.

Sol Denning, W. McIntyre, Billy Robinson, Dick Dolan and W. J. Coffman were all draymen. More information on draying at Donalda will be found in the Billy Robinson Story.

Lumberyards

Lumberyards were operated in the early years by Mr. Hopper who used a small tarpaper shack as headquarters. Later in 1914, the Revelstoke Sawmill Co. Ltd. opened a retail lumberyard with W. C. Pulleyblank as the manager. Later managers were; W. C. Moul, Gothard Loney, I. B. Lutz, Howard Allenson, C. F. Jones, George Ross who had Mr. Chalmers always ready to help, Harry Gartke and Maynard Thorsell. Tom Goddard was one of the last managers and the lumber yard closed around 1959-60.

The lumberyard remained closed for quite a few years. It served as a hockey rink until 1979. Wayne and Nancy Paul bought the land and built a new modern lumberyard on the original site. They used

some of the old storage buildings and have kept the original office intact to preserve a tie with the past.

Donalda Would Build Museum Around Lamp Collection

At a special meeting of Donalda Village Council and Donalda Community and district held January 31, 1979, representatives of the Battle River Tourist Association on behalf of Donald and Beth Lawson presented to the Village the extensive lamp collection. Also discussed at the meeting was the proposal to erect a museum building to hold this collection and artifacts donated by the Lawsons and other residents of the Donalda Community.

Mayor Clement called the meeting to order with a run-down of the purpose of the meeting and introduced the invited guests: Bill Fowler and Sylvia Clemens representatives from the Battle River Tourist Association; Ian Patterson, Museums Advisor, Alberta Culture, Province of Alberta; Wayne Paege, Recreation Director, County of Stettler Regional Recreation Board; Gordon Stromberg, MLA, Camrose Constituency and Jean Gilbert, Director of Preventive Social Services, Province of Alberta.

Mr. Fowler spoke to the group of what the Lawson Mini-Museum means to Donalda's heritage and economics, and said the community is fortunate to have a museum such as this. Mrs. Clemens spoke of the combination of the Mini-Museum and the coulees as a tourist attraction to Donalda. As many as 500 persons visit the lamp shop annually.

Wayne Paegge advised the gathering that funds are available through the County of Stettler Regional Recreation Board of approximately 50% funding under a Multi-Cultural Grant.

Jean Gilbert spoke briefly on the advantages of Preventive Social Services to Senior Citizens and on the New Horizons program which is available if a drop-in centre for senior citizens was incorporated into the museum structure. After much deliberation on the topic, the general feeling was to deal now only with the aspect of a museum and not to include a drop-in centre.

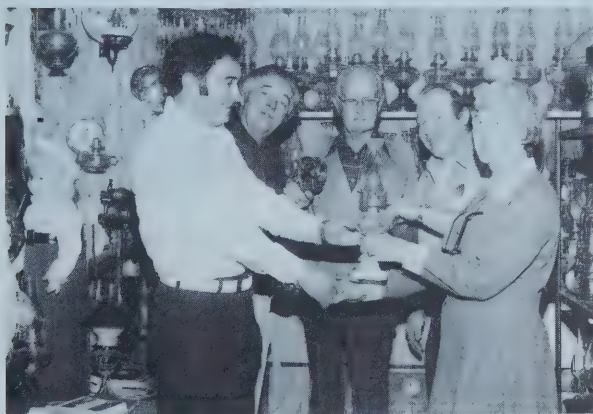
After more deliberation 100% of the meeting group were in agreement to proceed with this proposal of the possibilities of erecting such a structure, to preserve the heritage of Donalda and district for future generations.

Mr. Patterson offered to prepare a scale model of a feasible structure for analysis, and Mr. Paegge offered to prepare a cost analysis of a structure for the next meeting to be held in the Community Hall.

A special meeting of the Donalda Village Council was held October 29th, 1979 with Mayor Garry Clement, Councillor Eric Hjorth and Councillor Robert Conibear present.

Those also attending this special meeting called to discuss the proposed Donalda and District Museum and Village Office complex were Wilfred Ussner, Architect, Garry Kunstman, Contractor and Wayne Paegge, Director of the County of Stettler Recreation Board.

Council reviewed and accepted the architect's final plans and the contractor's cost estimate.



Museum for Donalda — Donalda Community is making plans for a museum built around the extraordinary lamp collection donated by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lawson. Financial assistance would be forthcoming from Battle River Tourist Association, and County of Stettler Regional Recreation Board and the Alberta Government. Left to right: Mayor Garry Clement, Councillor Eric Hjorth, Donald Lawson, Councillor Robert Conibear and Beth Lawson.



Scale drawing by Architect, Wilfred R. Ussner of the Donalda and District Museum and Village Office to be built on the old hotel site, south of the bank, with construction to begin November 1, 1979 for a cost of \$167,000.

As all final plans have been made Construction is to begin immediately, with excavation, foundation and frame-up to floor level to be carried out in November. The building is to be completed by the contractor during the winter of 1979-80.

Sod turning ceremony for the museum took place on November 7th, 1979.

A Mouse Proof Kitchen Cabinet

When the Nels Swans came to the Willow Park district of Donalda in a covered wagon in 1903, they had a unique piece of equipment to keep mice, chipmunks and other small rodents out of their food supply.

This cabinet is of the 'Tole' era, made of a very good grade of tin, painted black, with decorations of a transfer of palm tree. It is called a 'Globe Cabinet', and was patented in 1881.

It has compartments filled from the top for rice and barley, the most used staple foods, you could always have rice pudding or barley soup. It also has a compartment for flour, complete with sifter and original scoop. Another compartment holds sugar, which is also complete with sifter, and a portion of this bin has a compartment for coffee beans which is complete with coffee grinder. There are also six spice tins in slots of their own, then there is still room for extras like cake or cookies or dollar bills if you were lucky enough to have any in those days. This cabinet has a mirror in the front and hangers on the back to mount on or in the covered wagon.

This mouse proof cabinet was found in the chicken coop on the Swan farm by Beth Magwood, who graciously gave it to Don and Beth Lawson in 1967 to put in their Mini Museum, which has been donated to the Village for the new Donalda Museum.



Mouse Proof Kitchen Cabinet.

Pool Rooms and Barber Shops

In the early days of Eidswold there was a pool room operated by Bill Batke. This pool room was located by Jesse Graham's lumber yard near where the present creamery is situated.

When Donalda became a village in 1913, Wright and Sobey had a pool room and barber shop on railway street. It was destroyed by fire when the Merchants Bank burned down.

A Mr. Christenson was given a pool room license in February of 1919.

J. L. Boughton got a license for a pool room and barber shop in June of 1921.

F. A. Ullman received a pool room license in 1923.

In 1925 John Vikse and C. B. Murphy got their license for a restaurant and pool room (City Cafe).

Chas. Roth got a license for a restaurant and pool room in 1926. Also a license was issued to Donalda Hotel in 1926 for a restaurant and pool room.

Geyhard Hilde was issued a license for a pool room on main street in August of 1928.

C. A. DeWitt received a restaurant and pool room license for lot 1, block 2 in February 1929.

In February 1930, Hank and Walt Ayers got their license for pool room and barber shop. They kept this business until sometime in 1943.

Then Donalda had no pool room for a few years.

Alf Pederson bought the building and ran a pool room and barber shop until poor health caused him to close. The building was torn down to make way for the Donalda Inn.

Later Eric Hjorth opened Erics Amusement ParLOUR across the street in the old Vikse building.

It is noted that early pool room licenses included a restaurant license but it is believed this was so that chocolate bars, gum and soft drinks could be sold.

Railroad Station Agents and Section Men

The railway coming in 1911 brought the station agent. The first one was Mr. McRabie who later was a partner with C. B. Murphy in a store.

Jack Beaton arrived and served many years followed by Mr. E. C. Coffman, Bert Woodcock, B. Bjarnason, Mr. Bell, Bruce Morton and when it was closed Mr. Ted Rogers was our last station agent. Donalda still has C.N.R. service but without a station agent.



C.N.R. Station, Donalda, Alberta.

The men who helped keep the trains moving were the section men. Men such as M. Monson, Joe Jacobson, Mike Rogutski, Pete Moe, S. K. Jonson, George Howlett and Don Ekholm. There were many more in the early days who started when the railway came in, but their names are not recorded.

Edward R. "Ted" Rogers

"Edward R. Rogers arrived on the job January 15, 1967. Station was officially closed and agent left on May 7, 1967. All books, tickets, freight and express service had been removed from the station

prior to my arrival and my job during the period of my incumbency was more or less a baby sitting job to keep a fire on and the waiting room comfortable for the travelling public. Freight and express came in on a big truck trailer and Mr. Proctor, one of the grain buyers handled it and collected and remitted the charges to the C.N.R. And so an era of service to the public over many years came to a sad end in this friendly little town and community. Many men served as agents for the C.N.R. and I was the last one, regrettably. I made some dear friends during my brief stay with whom I still remain in contact."



Jack Beaton, C. D. VanBlarcom, Mike Dickey.

Telephone Office in Donalda By Beth Lawson

L. W. Bell built and operated the first telephone office. Mrs. Lena Otteson was the telephone agent and operator from 1915 to 1948. The switchboard and pay phone were in the Post Office which was the front part of her home.

Owing to new regulations of the Post Office Department, the telephone office had to be moved out by October 1, 1948. Being a Day Service Office, 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. daily except Sundays and holidays, 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon, the switchboard had to be in the residence of the agent and operator in case of emergency calls.

On October 1st, 1948, Elizabeth (Beth) Lawson took over the job of being agent and operator. At that time there were 133 subscribers. Her remuneration was as follows:

Payment for the first 30 subscribers	.. \$ 40.00
Balance of 103 at 50¢ each	 51.50
Cost of Living Bonus 40%	 36.60
Total each month	 128.10

Out of this the Agent had to supply room for the Office, switchboard and toll phone booth, heat, lights, and any extra help needed.

To house the telephone office we bought the former Ed Grice hardware and tinsmith building on main street, from Winston Clement. Beth moved the Knitterbug Korner to the west side of the telephone office. Don Lawson made living quarters in the back where we still live (1979). Beth continued to operate as Agent until 1957 when the daily phones came into service and we got 24 hour service.

Directory Advertising Pays

BLACK DIAMOND COAL
THE BEST - CHEAPEST - THE GREATEST

OFFICIAL
TELEPHONE
DIRECTORY

NOVEMBER, 1921

Northern Division
COMPRISING
Edmonton District
AND
ALL POINTS NORTH OF RED DEER
DESTROY ALL OLD DIRECTORIES

E. N. KENNEDY CO.
Edmonton
Kodaks
Amateur Finishing
School Books

For Long Distance Rates See Pages 9 and 10

Copy of cover and pages of Donalda's listing taken from the Official Telephone Directory for the Northern Division, November 1921. H 546161

RURAL SUBSCRIBERS

DEVILLE
Toll Office

DEWBERRY
Connected with Irlay

DIAMOND VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY
Connected with Everts

DILIGENCE
Connected with Legal

DINA
Connected with Deville

DINANT
Connected with Camrose

DODDS
Connected with Ryley

DONALDA
Day Service

EXCHANGE SUBSCRIBERS

10 Anderson Irlay Hardware
2 Anderson V E res
1 Beattie Rev H res
6 Broughton S J res
23 Brown Hodd Hardware Co
2 C N R Donat
4 Christensen J L Barber Shop Tobacco and Billiards
3 Coffin W J res
26 Donalds Garage "Holtz & Flynn
5 Donalds Hotel H H Donalds
39 Donalds Livery Hare S E Denney
3 Donalds Motor Sales Harker Hare
33 Donalds Taxicab The F J Night
32 Downing F C res
30 Downing J C res
13 Gillespie Elevator Co office
34 Gross E W "Donairth
17 Jackson W J res
25 Jensen C H The New Hotel
8 Lee S P General Store
17 Lorry's Store Ltd
7 Merchants Bank of Canada
10 Murphy C B Drug Store
16 Murphy J B res
24 Murphy Pat
40 Olsen O E res
31 Porter W E
11 Porter W E res
28 Quaseth N M O res
12 Revelstoke Saw Mill Co Ltd
29 Rhymer J B Druggist
20 Somers A M res
27 Somers F res
36 Stanlake "Donair res
37 Tarnan Dr W A P
14 United Grain Growers Ltd
9 Vilas Bros General Store
15 Watschorn E N res

To expedite local operating at manual exchanges, ask the operator for TELEPHONE NUMBER instead of the name of the subscriber desired. Call by number instead of by name.

Village of Donalda

Over the past years since Donalda's incorporation as a Village on January 27th, 1913; one name stands out particularly, and that is of Ole Michael (Mike) Vikse. C. B. Murphy had been Secretary from that first meeting until January 17th, 1918 when Mike Vikse became Secretary-Treasurer. He held that position until 1962. Forty-three consecutive years of service! Following as Secretary-Treasurer for the Village of Donalda were: Mrs. Hazel Jones, March 1961-October 1967. Mary Fitzpatrick, November 1967-October 1976. Georgina Froebel, November 1976 to date.

Mayors for the Village of Donalda, in order of their first term in office are as follows: J. Christenson, G. Lowry, B. A. Butzer, L. H. Cullerne, W. E. Porter, C. B. Murphy, R. S. Greenaway, T. C. Paterson, Chris Lausen, Sr. (18 years consecutively), Winston Clement, Carl F. Jones (Casey), Garry Clement (10 years consecutively), Eric Hjorth, present Mayor.

Councillors for the Village over the past years have been: (since the early 1960's — Walter Halseth, — Don Potter, Carl F. Jones, Winston Clement, Robert Holladay, William Steinhoff, Susan

R 304 Alkand S L—Donalda
R 910 Albricht H E—Donalda
R 602 Amelkian H—Donalda
R 105 Bailey E A—Donalda
R 502 Banta C N—Donalda
R 902 Barber J W—Donalda
R 907 Barber L—Donalda
R 402 Baricko Harold—Donalda
R 111 Berg Alfred—Donalda
R 610 Bernard Dan—Donalda
R 705 Biane Frank—Donalda
R 905 Blate A J—Donalda
R 702 Boughtin E M—Donalda
R 1204 Brewster J A—Donalda
R 114 Broughton O A—Donalda
R 1309 Buena Vista S D (83)—Donalda
R 104 Butzer B A—Donalda
R 614 Cahill Earl—Donalda
R 1004 Cahill Leonard E—Donalda
R 106 Clifford E B—Donalda
R 802 Clement J P—Donalda
R 802 Collins K & Hoffman A—Donalda
R 109 Cook J—Donalda
R 1313 Dahl U—Donalda
R 1312 Dahl M—Donalda
R 108 Damborg Maa M—Donalda
R 808 Davison Oscar—Donalda
R 606 Dickey Samuel—Donalda
R 506 Dickey Samuel—Donalda
R 310 Edinell N O—Donalda
R 306 Edwards E—Donalda
R 809 Edwards E—Donalda
R 612 Feeney C—Donalda
R 704 Fitzpatrick J—Donalda
R 810 Flack S—Donalda
R 906 Friberg Gustaf—Donalda
R 609 Gerasrud L—Donalda
R 1209 Graffunder A—Donalda
R 211 Graham W Wilson—Donalda
R 1314 Hagen E—Donalda
R 503 Hagen L E—Donalda
R 212 Hagen Theo J—Donalda
R 909 Halseth Chr L—Donalda
R 908 Halseth Lewis C—Donalda
R 1304 Hammacher A—Donalda
R 717 Hasey O M—Donalda
R 811 Hastings F W—Donalda
R 613 Hays Jordan E N—Donalda
R 204 Houghton G—Donalda
R 1014 Hester J E—Donalda
R 103 Hender E J—Donalda
R 102 Hilde S A—Donalda
R 110 Hoen School (S D No 2103) Donalda
R 1307 Johnson J H—Donalda
R 103 Jacobson O—Donalda
R 306 Jertall A—Donalda
R 208 Johnson Arvid—Donalda
R 1206 Johnson Arvid—Donalda
R 205 Johnson Henry M—Donalda
R 303 Johnson John O—Donalda
R 1212 Johnson J W—Donalda
R 707 Jones C E—Donalda
R 109 Jones C O—Donalda
R 803 Jones J C—Donalda
R 904 Jones J R—Donalda
R 903 Jones W A—Donalda
R 1216 Jones Wm—Donalda
R 1010 Jul A L—Donalda

R 706 Wahl Wm—Donalda
R 106 Kandelson E—Donalda
R 703 Kandelson E—Donalda
R 1302 Kramm L F—Donalda
R 1009 Law W—Donalda
R 811 McLeod Geo—Donalda
R 714 McKay Chris L—Donalda
R 713 McKay David J—Donalda
R 716 McKay E W—Donalda
R 710 McLean J H—Donalda
R 1210 McLeod N P—Donalda
R 504 Norman Fred—Donalda
R 217 Norman J A—Donalda
R 506 Norman Ole—Donalda
R 305 Olsen H—Donalda
R 214 Olsen Oscar E—Donalda
R 215 Olsen Peter—Donalda
R 604 Paulsen Ole C—Donalda
R 509 Pedersen Carl I—Donalda
R 1016 Pennington C H—Donalda
R 1003 Pennington Walter—Donalda
R 1005 Phillips Carl—Donalda
R 1202 Phillips Robert—Donalda
R 407 Pickering W T—Donalda
R 715 Pickering W T—Donalda
R 806 Porter W E—Donalda
R 1110 Posed Nick—Donalda
R 507 Preston T J—Donalda
R 511 Ramsdell Henry—Donalda
R 510 Ramsdell Oscar—Donalda
R 804 Robinson E L—Donalda
R 603 Robinson W P—Donalda
R 1008 Roseberry W H—Donalda
R 1213 Rundquist J J—Donalda
R 404 Sawyer L E—Donalda
R 1210 Smith John—Donalda
R 807 Smith R T—Donalda
R 113 Steavert Ives—Donalda
R 115 Steavert Peter P—Donalda
R 104 Steavert Ole—Donalda
R 1203 Stubbhoff W C—Donalda
R 1311 Stewart L E—Donalda
R 206 Stein J—Donalda
R 1308 Stoyall C—Donalda
R 1107 Takow F—Donalda
R 805 Thibault J—Donalda
R 705 Tucker J—Donalda
R 1102 Tveder Marie—Donalda
R 1007 Tveder George—Donalda
R 1403 Van Housen C D—Donalda
R 203 Vitas Jacob T—Donalda
R 1112 Vitas T—Donalda
R 1107 Vitas W Victor—Donalda
R 1405 Welch Paul—Donalda
R 605 Whitmore E N—Donalda
R 611 Whitmore Geo E—Donalda
R 1012 Whitmore L E—Donalda
R 1215 Winter E A—Donalda
R 1013 Young E—Donalda
R 714 Young W A—Donalda
R 1307 Zachris Frank—Donalda
R 1309 Zachris J B—Donalda

DORENLEE
Connected with Fernston

DOUCETTE
Toll Office

DOWNING
Toll Office

DRAYTON VALLEY
Toll Office

DUAGH
Connected with Edmonton

DUFFIELD
Connected with Wabamun

DUFRESNE
Toll Office

DUMAMEL
Connected with Camrose

DUNSTABLE
Toll Office

DURLINGVILLE
Toll Office

DUVERNAY
Toll Office

EARLIE
Toll Office

EARLING
Connected with Ryley

EARLVILLE
Connected with Ponoka

EASTBURG
LIBERTY MUTUAL TELEPHONE CO
RURAL SUBSCRIBERS

R 111 Appleby Earl
R 108 Armstrong Geo
R 103 Bynack B J
R 109 Cassin Jules
R 106 Carrs C
R 110 Donkalar G
R 104 Hall Chas H
R 113 Howell G M
R 107 McGinnis R J
R 105 Paulsen H B
R 102 Reardon H E

EASTERVILLE
Toll Office

ECHOMILL
Toll Office

ECKVILLE
ECKVILLE MUTUAL TELEPHONE
ASSOCIATION
EXCHANGE SUBSCRIBERS

3 Bertrand L R res
15 Campbell & Griffin Cream Station
8 Canadian Bank of Commerce
2 Chasum D res
16 Coghill Jack—Mountain View Hotel
4 Co-operative Store
12 Corns W H Hardware Store
10 Crowley C B Drug Store
5 Laasonen & Wickstrom Garage
19 Laasonen A F res
17 Manila John Livery Hare
14 Macdonald J M Real Estate
11 Mellistad W H Blacksmith
6 Parrish & Heimbocker Elevator
13 Restaurant Chas Mason Prop
7 Rogers W P Store
9 Rustop Mike General Store
18 Wilson Lumber Co Ltd

Hall, John Skene, James Fischbach, Eric Hjorth, Robert Conibear (present), Fred Henke (present).

Village Representatives to the County of Stettler School Committee: Robert Wotherspoon, October 1964-October 1977, George Elliot, October 1977 to date.

Joe Tyrlik has served the Village as Fire Chief since 1963.

On February 13th, 1964 a portion of Village property west of the elevators was surveyed and registered as a subdivision under Block B, Plan 85 NY, Vikse Crescent to pay honor to O. M. (Mike) Vikse who had been Secretary-Treasurer for the Village for 43 years. To date this subdivision of 12 lots has all been sold to residents living in houses and mobile homes.

In July of 1964 a by-law was passed in Council for the purpose of providing a water supply and distribution system to the Village and providing a sewer and sewage disposal system. Two lots were purchased from Ole and Lilly Stenlund for a cash price of \$57.00 on which to erect the water tower. Soon after that it was established that wells be drilled to provide a water supply for the Village.

In February, 1972 Plains Western Gas and Elec-

tric Co. Ltd., was granted a franchise to supply the Village of Donalda and residents with natural gas.

November 4th, 1975 the Village passed a by-law to provide for the establishment of a Disaster Services Agency, then in December, 1975 a mutual aid agreement in the event of a disaster was drawn up to include other municipalities with the County of Stettler.

During 1975 the Village Council decided to create a new modified landfill site. The Village entered into agreement with the Land Reclamation Branch of the Department of Environment to return the old nuisance grounds to its natural state. Door to door garbage collection was established that year as well. John Swaren was hired as collector and still holds the job at present.

In February 1977, Donalda joined forces with the Villages of Alix, Bashaw, Big Valley, Edberg,

Elnora, Delburne, Ferintosh, Mirror and New Norway to be known as the Buffalo Lake Regional Resources Project for the purpose of combining efforts when dealing with Government agencies. This project is funded jointly by Alberta Business Development & Tourism and the ten participating communities. The funds enable the communities to hire a full-time coordinator to work on their behalf. Neil Wagstaff is the Coordinator presently living in Elnora. He has been representing our community and others in regard to the adversities of rail abandonment and has been influential in helping Donalda with their application to Alberta Housing Corporation for a Senior Citizens Complex, which may become a reality in 1980-81. Eric Hjorth (Councillor) represented Donalda on this board for 1 year. Councillor Robert Conibear is present representative.

The population of Donalda has varied over the

M. S. A.



CANADA

The Western Municipal News

Village of Donalda
NAME OF MUNICIPALITY

LICENSE

NO. *1*

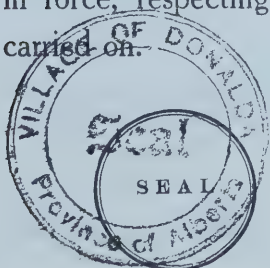
This is to Certify that *Mass Damberger*
of *Donalda* has this day paid
me the sum of *Five* DOLLARS
for a license to carry on business as *coal wood and ice hauler*
within the limits of the *Village* of *Donalda*
until the *fifth* day of *March* 19*78*
unless this license be sooner suspended or forfeited and this license is issued to the said
Mass Damberger and is accepted and held by *him*
subject to any and all by-laws, rules and regulations that are now, or hereafter may be
in force, respecting the same or the trade, business or calling hereby licensed to be
carried on.

Given under my hand and the corporate Seal of *Village of Donalda*

this *5* day of *March* A.D. 19*78*

O. M. Vitke Sec Treas.

Clerk



TAX RECEIPT

No 2530

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF HAIG, No. 396

DONALDA, ALBERTA

Dec. 9 1925 \$1761
64

RECEIVED FROM

*H. J. Jensen -
Donalda*

THE SUM OF

Applied in payment of Taxes as below:

DOLLARS

Assessment Roll Folio.....

Cash Book Folio.....

DESCRIPTION OF LAND				YEARS PAID	MUNICIPAL TAX	SUPPLEMENTARY REVENUE TAX	SEED GRAIN ADVANCES	FEDERAL AND RELIEF ADVANCES	RAIL INSURANCE TAX	S.D. NO. SCHOOL TAX	EDUCATION TAX	HOSPITAL TAX	WILD LANDS TAX	Rest	TOTAL
PART OF SECTION	SECTION	TWP. BLOCK	RANGE & MER. LOT												
NE	4	43	18	1925	1085	576								1761	1761
TOTAL TAXES PAID															1761
BALANCE DUE AS FOLLOWS															
TOTAL TAXES STILL DUE at Date															

(Signed)

W. E. P. Shaw

Secretary-Treasurer

No. 1

TAX RECEIPT

\$ 500

Local Improvement District No. 1

Received from

W. E. P. Shaw - Treasurer

the sum of

Dollars

being Taxes due to Local Improvement District No. 1 for the year 1925

on Sec. 20 Tp. 42 Rge. 15 west of the Meridian.

on Sec. 20 Tp. 42 Rge. 15 west of the Meridian.

on Sec. 20 Tp. 42 Rge. 15 west of the Meridian.

Taxes current year, 1925 \$ 500

Arrears - \$ 00

Total Taxes \$ 500

Dated

Dec 12 25

W. E. P. Shaw

Sec.-Treas.

past years with a 1979 increase over 1978 of 10% from 226 residents to 252.

During October 1977, Donalda entered into an agreement with the Villages of Big Valley, Botha, Rochon Sands and the County of Stettler in order to organize and operate a regional recreation board. Many recreation groups within the Village have derived financial support as well as expertise in setting up sporting activities such as figure skating, hockey, gymnastics, baseball, etc. Louis Bell has been the Village representative on this board for many years. The present Director of the board, Wayne Paege has been a guiding force behind the Donalda and District Museum and Village Office Building. This complex comes under this program as a multi-cultural-recreational facility.

The Village Council, during the spring of 1978, decided to develop the old trailer court property, into a subdivision with 26 residential lots. This property had been purchased in October 1961 from Melvin Lindberg. During 1978 and 1979 this subdivision was planned, engineered and surveyed. It was serviced with water, sewer, power and gas. The name of the subdivision was decided among Council to be called Lawson Subdivision; giving honor to Donald Lawson as a most respected citizen and his sister Margaret Lawson for her many, many years as a Donalda school Teacher.

In 1979 the Village Council applied to the Alberta Local Authorities Board which approved the annexation of 47.15 acres of village property to extend their boundary. A portion of this property has been subdivided by the Village for possible future industrial development.

A median was constructed down the centre of Donalda's Main Street during the fall of 1979 with funds supplied through Main Street Alberta — Devonian Group of Charitable Donations. With plans of tree planting in the median, this, along with renovations of various storefronts enhance the Village.

Also in the fall of 1979 the Village entered into agreement with the Town of Stettler as operating authority under the Preventive Social Services Program to help the residents of Donalda with the needs of home-help, handy-man services. This program has not only been established for the elderly but for the young people that show a need as well.

This project as so many that the Village Council has implemented over the past years all help to make Donalda a most pleasant community in which to live.

Donalda School

In the year 1911, a group of enterprising Donalda citizens organized the Donalda School District and



Donalda School 1925. Teacher: Miss Graham. Back row: Bernard Henrikson, Winston Clement, Joe Van Blarcom, Emma Houston, Dorothy Clement, Dagny Henrikson, Murray Anderson, Edna Lee, Viva Stenlund, Elmer Erickson, Doris Solomonson, Thelmer Hagen. Front row: George Chambers, Arthur Anderson, Clifford Rasmussen, Theresa —, Jimmy Winter, Violet Norman, Ida Graf, Donald Russel, Norma Anderson, Ian Patterson, Agnes Sharkey.

secured the use of the Lawrence Olsen house which stood on land behind the former Donalda Hardware building for the village's first school.

The first teacher was Ernest A. "Dad" Winter and his eleven children were: Esther Lee who became Mrs. George Chapman; Lena Johnson (Mrs. Dick Dolan); Clarence and Wilfred Imeson; Irwin and Lyle Ullman; Edna and James Otteson; Mila McRobe; Ike Haviland and Arthur Lee.

Classes commenced November 27th, 1911. The following year the classes were held in a vacant store which stood on the site of the former Oddfellows Hall. By January 1913, there were thirty-eight pupils and a new two room school was built at the present school grounds.

The first teacher in this school was Miss Roxy Frazer, (Mrs. Mike Vikse). The following year Mr. Walter Riddell was the second room teacher, salaries \$720.00 per year in 1918. Poplar Grove, East of Donalda and Seven Nations School District combined with Donalda school to form the Donalda consolidated school district # 57. The following year the Poplar Grove School house was moved to the present school grounds to make room for the 101 students enrolled at this time. Principal this term was J. C. Jonason.

In 1923, it became necessary to open another classroom. For this, the present Orville Bailey house was used. The enrollment now 112, and grades one to eleven were taught.

From information taken from the Donalda High School Magpie, 1923, a yearbook printed to celebrate the first year that there was High School in Donalda, we learned that Mr. Bruce was their principal.

The students were always busy with athletics,



Donaldda School 1934.

From left to right back row: Teacher, Clarence G. Erickson, Lilly Henrickson, Myrtle Wood, Pat Hoover, Walter Strahan, Melvin Robinson, David Ewing, Vernon Fawcett, Philip Stolee, Norman Monson and Kenneth Clement. Middle row: Alf Chambers, Herb McKay, Jim Patterson, Herb Ewing, Henry Monson, Orville Strahan, Wallace McKay, Alfred Henrickson, George Chambers, Bobby Dickey, David Rodvik, Eddie Rake, Ralph Norman. Front row sitting: Lester Vikse, Muriel Solomonson, Freda Lloyd, Margaret Moul, Elsie Graf, Marion Moul, Ruby Stenlund, Lillian Rasmussen, Dora Fawcett, Mildred Van Blarcom, Ina Heisz and Henry Chambers.



Donaldda School 1934. From left to right, back row: Teacher Jenny Whitehorn, Artie Solomonson, Francis Vikse, Erling Rodvik, Lage Johnson, Top Jones, Harold Chapman, Ruth Whitehorn, Mysie McKay, Bertha Solomonson, Valerie Hoover. Second row: Luthur Rodvik, Christen Peter Lausen, Marvin Rodvik, Ralph Robinson, Dennis Peatman, Paul Heisz, Tommy Solomonson, Gordie Vikse. Front row: May Ewing, Rita Fawcett, Sylvia Johnson, Florence Vikse, Helen Jones, Dorothy Chapman, Mildred Moul, Melba Strahan, Evelyn Stenlund and Norma Johnson.

Student Government, and Literary and Debates. They also had a school fair, held September 26th, 1922. The schools competing in this fair were; Norbo, Buena Vista, Ibsen, Science Mound, Willow Park, and the three rooms of Donaldda Consolidated School. Martha (Mattie) Seymour received the greatest number of prizes and won a free trip to the Olds Agricultural School. Other exhibitors from the High School winning a number of prizes were: Judith and Constance Loney, Edna and Cecil Winter and Ruth Green.

Grade nine students in 1923 were; George Stewart, Rachel Stanwick, Harry Green, Arthur McClary, Selma Erickson, Noleman Matthewson, Winnifred Persinger, Osten Lindgren, Agnes Hammarberg, Cecil Winter, Sigvald Stolee, and Verlie Fitzpatrick.

Grade ten students in 1923 were; Selmer Hilde, Edna Winter, Fred Stanlake, Faye Murphey, Thure Norman, Annie Pickering, Clarence Erickson, Nola Tucker, Harris Dohlen, Judith Loney, Oscar Layher, Hortense Otteson, Gordon Stewart, Lillie Stanwick, and Ruth Green.

Grade eleven students in 1923 were; Constance Loney and Martha Seymour.

The year 1929-30 Clarence Erickson taught grades six and seven in the house that is presently Milton Heater's home. The three room part of the school was destroyed by fire in 1937 and classes were then held in Sharon Lutheran Church, the school



Donaldda School Kids 1942-43. Front Row L. to R.: Lynn Peatman, Dennis Nordvie, Dennis Stenlund, Alvin Bergstrom, Eldon Nordvie, John Peatman, Eddy Hay, Ralph Tuckie, Lyle Heisz, Eddie Matheson, Standing L. to R.: Verna Strahan, Grace Olson, Eileen Heisz, Melba Strahan, Myrna Moul, Art Solmonson, Mona Hjorth, Velma Dolan, Doris Jenson, Marvin Nordvie, Anna Russell, Rosemary Chapman, Eric Hjorth, Jewell Tucker, Ida Heisz, Clarence Olson, Helen Olson, Ruby Bergstrom, Violet Anderson, Iris Koehler, Donna Jean Peage, June Tucker, ? and Ruby Jenson.



Donaldda School 1956. Back row L to R: Arthur Knudtson, Wayne Johnson, Rodney Heater, Miss Margaret Lawson, Donnie Badry, Byran McKay, Arthur Murat. Third row: Harvey Norman, Julie Peterson, Judy Summers, Melodie Adair, Ellen Lee, Gary Ramstad. Second row: Faye Thomas, Cheryl Jones, Diana Vikse, Linda Stanwick, Denise Barnes, Laurel Grant, Elaine Norman, Nancy Jones. Front row: Lester Sehlstrom, Danny Rake, DeWayne Quesseth, Billy MacDonald, David Pearson, Gregory Wood.

carpenter shop and the house now owned by Milton Heater. A new school was built and ready for occupancy by September, 1938. This building was paid for without loans and started the term with \$2,000.00 in the bank. In July, 1952 the consolidated school district was included in the Stettler School Division and in 1955 Donalda and district became a part of the County of Stettler. Pupils from Buena Vista, Willow Park, Science Mound and Star Ridge were bussed into Donalda.

These new pupils meant more classrooms were needed and temporary rooms were made in the basement of the new community hall while a new brick and stucco building was constructed. This addition was completed by January 1957 and the school now had eight classrooms, a typing room and a large auditorium. These classrooms did not provide enough space as time went on so classes were held in the typing and science rooms. Two new rooms were built and put to use January, 1961, Donalda School then had 241 pupils. The following teachers have taught in Donalda School: E. Winter, Mrs. Mike Vikse, W. Redel, Miss Gertrude Martin, L. Robbins, Miss Kay Ennis, J. C. Jonason, Miss Iva Gilbert, Miss Theresa Lusted, Mr. Huston, Miss Jenny Whitehorn, Miss McKenna, Miss Goodhand, Miss Olivia Regan, A. E. Warren, R. Bruce, Miss M. Capsey, J. McPherson, Miss N. Fleming, Miss Maude McKay, Miss Mary Graham, Miss Grace Carscadden, Misses Arnie and Cecilia Peyton, E. R. Hoover, J. Steel-Smith, Miss Almeda Snyder, Miss Irene Banks, Miss Sarah Capsey, Miss Anna Belle Aooen, Mrs. Verlie Steinhoff, S. R. Kerr, C. G. Erickson, Mrs. Rose Rake, Miss Margaret Lawson, Miss Edith Steele, H. B. Wortman, Miss Francis Dever, Miss Marie Fox, S. Simonson, Mrs. Irene Austin, E. E. Green, W. C. Johnston, Miss Doris Glasner (Pearson), F. M. Jacobs, Miss V. A. Nies, W. O. Dinwoodie, Milton Heater, W. E. Reynolds, W. Ripka, Miss Betty Kling, G. Tingley, J. Ballantyne, J. McLean, V. Shaw, Mrs. Nola Heater, Miss Kay McKinley, Mrs. Kathleen Blomgren, Miss Melissa McKay, Mr. MacMurchy, Howard Gimby, Mrs. Helen Gimby, Mrs. Esther Potter, Miss Fridulin, Mrs. Ann DeGraff, Mrs. R. Komishke, Mrs. Alice Graf, Norman Wright, Mrs. Opal Weir, Mrs. E. Cook, K. Dinwoodie, A. Lee, Audrey Simpson, Donna Freeman, Joy Gridley, Diane Conibear, Louis Johnson, Gurdev Brar, Doris M. Henke, Betty Sideritsch, Alf Lepp, Louis Shaw, Lorraine Potter, Gary Fix, Dale Howard, Connie Hersekorn, Christine Mjolsness, Barry Ripper, Shirley Steinhoff, Fern Clement, Judy Sayer, Maxine Black, Judy Massey (Erickson), Halley Gridley, Neil Pinder, and Ron

Mikulin. Starting in 1967, a condensed course in ceramics was offered to people over sixteen years of age in Donalda School. The instructor for this course was provided by the Provincial Government. These students in turn were expected to instruct in ceramics to other interested groups in the community.

Much interest was shown in carrying on with the teaching of this class and it continues to the present time. There is a spacious ceramic room in the basement of Donalda School where this teaching is done.

Oil paintings classes for adults have also been held in Donalda School with instructors sent out from the Extension Department of University of Alberta, Edmonton.

Donalda School has had many honour students throughout the years. To mention a few Elaine Fischbach won the Governor General's Award at one time; William Lee, son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Lee won the Governor General's Award in 1962, in 1969 the grade nine students all passed their Departmental examinations with two students Reginald Adair and William Elliot passing with honors.

At one time Judy Erickson won first place in the Provincial Competition with her Weed Control essay and her essay was submitted to the North Central Weed Control Conference which takes in fourteen north central states and three western Canadian provinces. Trudy Christians also won an award on her weed essay in 1969. Robert Williams placed first in the five and six grade groups and Lois Knudtson placed first in the Junior High School group on their Farm Safety Essay a few years ago.

Approximately 45,000 essays were written on the theme "Enjoy Life by Playing Safe" out of which these Donalda students won first place.

Much credit for such honors goes to their parents and teachers who have encouraged these students to bring forth their best. Perhaps the Home and School organization, active in the fifties and sixties made for good relationships between parents and teachers.

Among Donalda's teachers who taught here for many years and retired in Donalda are; Miss Margaret Lawson who joined Donalda's Teaching Staff in 1937, and stayed on at Donalda School for thirty-one years. Having taught eleven years previous to her coming to Donalda School, she reached the third generation phase. Milton Heater retired in 1977, after thirty-five years of teaching in the Donalda School.

Earl R. Hoover and S. R. Kerr are also honorable mentions for long time teaching in the Donalda School. Throughout these many years, Donalda School has won many trophies, cups, etc. For athletic activities. To mention a few from the

past in 1925 Donalda Girls' Basketball team won the Central Alberta Championships.

The championships were maintained and many shields were won. In 1930-31, the Donalda Boys' Basketball Team were the Northern Alberta champions with Earl R. Hoover, principal of Donalda School, their coach. Among those who served many years as trustees are; Ed Henley, Mrs. Lena Otteson, John Tucker, Mrs. Patterson, Chas. Chapman, Mrs. Nola Heater and in later years Bob Wotherspoon and presently George Elliot.

Mike Vikse served as Secretary-Treasurer for thirty-one years, a record for public service.

Another long time servant for Donalda School was Charlie Steil who endeared himself to the many students and teachers during twenty-six years of continuous and cheerful service as janitor. Following his retirement, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Tyrlik have served as janitors for the Donalda School.

We also pay tribute to the van drivers of those early years when the horse-drawn vans were used and were hired for a wage of \$2.50 per day.

At that time roads were poor, lacking gravel and no snow plows to keep the roads open in winter. Several times the horse-drawn vans tipped over because of the snow drifts yet they seemed to manage to arrive on time for school.

Ole Stenlund was one of these drivers who at age seventy had completed thirty-two years of driving. He retired from regular driving at seventy-two years of age, but drove occasionally as spare driver for his son Dennis at which time Ole was driving a third generation of children. Ole started driving in 1923 to Donalda Consolidated School and retired in 1957. His son Dennis Stenlund started the fall of 1957 and is presently one of Donalda's School bus drivers. He drove at eighteen years of age for his father when the need arose. Olaf Nordvie drove the horse drawn van from 1926 and continued to 1934.

Dad Ewing drove the Donalda East horse drawn school van for seven years in the thirties driving a total of forty miles per day at three dollars per day. At one time he had thirty-two children to haul. Ray Banta was another long time school bus driver. Alf Rider drove at least sixteen continuous years.

Ken Quesseth drove the school bus for twenty-six consecutive years, seventeen years on the Willow Park, Science Mound route and the last few years on the Spruce Coulee route. Lars Larson and C. D. Van Blarcom, were among the drivers during the horse-drawn van days. See their history.

Ralph Tate completed twelve years of school bus driving in 1958. He also drove from Donalda to Stettler with the High School bus for two years.

There are several others who drove the school bus for only a few years; such as Charlie Steil, Melvin Ramstad, Oliver Soderstrom, Randy Jones, Don Lawson, Clyde Heater, Henry Eichhorn, and Charlie Morton who drove spare for Ken Quesseth in 1962 and continuous from fall of 1963 until they moved away from Donalda.

School bus drivers in 1979 are Dennis Stenlund who has driven for thirty years, Joe Tyrlik, seventeen years, Lloyd Paulson eleven years, Lois Paulson, Don Vallet and Dee Kahl who drove bus for nineteen years, high school bus from Donalda for ten years. Spare drivers are Roger and Louise Block, Vivian Halseth and Joanne Vallet.

Donalda School Fair 1921

The second Annual School Fair was held at the Exhibition grounds, Donalda, on September 20, 1921. Schools competing were Donalda Consolidated, Science Mound, Willow Park, Ibsen, Norbo, Buena Vista and Centennial.

There were good exhibits of calves, sheep, pigs and poultry, but only one entry for the colt section. These animals were kept in the barns. Four judges were present from the Olds School of Agriculture as well as a local committee of judges appointed by Inspector Thibaudeau to consider the merits of the school work. This committee consisted of: Mrs. Dempsey, Mrs. O. M. Vikse and Mrs. Pat Murphy, all ex-teachers. These exhibits were shown in the Arts Building. Judge Brokke was in charge of the Children's exhibits. His assistants were: Vic Anderson, Mr. Cullerne, Dave McKay and C. H. Haney.

Mrs. May (Gilbert) Allison

In 1919-1920, I taught the intermediate grades in the Donalda School. Miss Lusted had the primary



Donalda School Teachers 1920. Miss Lusted on the left and Miss Gilbert.

room until Easter. Mr. Joneson was the Principal. We found the people most helpful and co-operative. There was a big Halloween Party for young and old. We had a dinner for the young baseball club. The people in business helped and contributed to this. There was a Chinese restaurant in Donalda and one of the Chinese boys went to school. They sent a generous donation to the dinner. I boarded with Mrs. Lee parttime and part-time with Mrs. Layer. Some of my pupils were: Hortense Otteson, Earl Casebeer, Ethel Casebeer and Verlie Fitzpatrick.

Donalda Cemetery

Mr. Chris Johnson set aside a corner of his homestead for a cemetery. The first burial was that of his son Ernest Johnson in September 1915. Ernest lost his life in a mining accident.

The Donalda Cemetery Club has taken care of the grounds for many years and these ladies have done a fine job. Some of their achievements include the beautiful memorial cairn and a map showing the location of each grave, which is a great help to visitors. Members of the club at present are: Mrs. Minnie Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Lizzie Suddaby, Mrs. Etta Kline, Mrs. Ida Jones, Mrs. Marie McKay, Mrs. Verlie Steinhoff, Mrs. Beth Schmidt, Mrs. Nellie

Armstrong, Mrs. Pauline Clement, Mrs. Astrid Rider, Mrs. Connie Westlund, Mrs. Annie Jones and Mrs. Susan Hall.

Mr. Sidney Cram donated a strip of land along the south boundary of the cemetery and this addition was fenced with posts and wire donated by Mr. John Skene. This new section has been seeded to grass and Russian Olive trees planted along the border.

Donalda Cemetery

Semour
Semour
Alvin Semour
Alfred Lee
Caroline Lee
Brooks child
Ed Boughton
Hannah Boughton
Chas. Flux
Chas. Grey child
H. W. Wall child
Edna Casebeer
John Matheson
Fred Tebow
Lilly Holladay
W. M. Holladay

Wallace Pickering
Hattie Pickering
John Clement
Almeda Clement
Signer Clement
Violet Chapman
Maggie McKay
David McKay
Wm. Lucas
Rose Losie
Adaline Clement
Miss Williamson
Gabriel Olson
Besse Persinger
R. T. (Bob) Smith
Belle Smith



Donalda Cemetery — Donalda residents take pride in their community and this is evident in the ways

they maintain their streets and boulevards. Donalda Cemetery is one of the community's beauty spots.

Two Smith infants
 Eldon Bergstrom
 Bert Russell
 Roger Stanvik
 Alfa Banta
 Otto Rudd
 Eunice Davison
 Grace Davison
 Margaret Davison
 Arthur Davison
 Ethel McKay
 Colin McKay
 Wesley Clement
 Evelyn Clement
 John N. Clement
 Freda Clement
 Ernest Johnson
 Chris. Johnson
 Henry Vincent
 Jerry Fitzpatrick
 Joe Mitchinson
 Mitchinson
 Mitchinson infant
 Chris Steinhoff
 Elizabeth Steinhoff
 Doreen Steinhoff
 Dorathea Steinhoff
 William Steinhoff
 Hedley McKay
 Bertha McKay
 Tina McKay
 Lorne McKay
 Conrad Halseth
 Gordon Dahl
 Julia Ayers
 Olaf Quesseth
 Minnie Quesseth
 Clarence Hornady
 Grace Hornady
 W. A. (Bert) Jones
 Tom Solomonson
 Christina Solomonson
 Fred Erickson
 Rose Erickson
 Clarence Erickson
 Elmer Erickson
 Mrs. Chester Stanlake
 Kenneth Strojich
 Samuel Flack
 Margaret Flack
 Mabel Flack
 Linda Flack
 Nellie Flack
 Robert Flack

F. Pickup baby
 Frank Lee
 Wm. Lee
 Lottie Lee
 Jake Heater
 Heater infant
 James Pound
 Nora Pound
 E. Brown child
 Mrs. F. Ullman
 Fred Ullman
 Mathias Jones
 Wm. C. Jones
 Lizzie Jones
 George Chambers
 Fanny Chambers
 Ed Heater
 Mrs. E. Heater
 T. Warren child
 Louis Barber
 Barber child
 Alfred Berg
 Mrs. A. Berg
 Mrs. Ed Grice
 Lars Dahl
 Dahl child
 Lydia Pickering
 Noah Pickering
 Dorah Pickering
 Mark Pickering
 Wm. Pickering
 Walter McIntyre
 Laura McIntyre
 Bertha Crandall
 Mrs. Brewster
 Orin Brewster
 John Brewster
 Johnny Kline
 Marie Simonson
 Harold Hjorth
 Frank Zuehlke
 L. Bailey
 Elmer Bailey
 Frank Bailey
 Bertha Bailey
 Leta Lloyd
 Lawrence Lloyd
 Jesse Jones
 Minnie Jones
 O. Mike Vikse
 Mabel Anderson
 Ole Anderson
 Norma Bond
 Ethel Stickney

H. T. Halverson
 J. Pete Rasmusson
 Mariane Rasmusson
 Wm. Dawe
 Emily Dawe
 Inez Tucker
 Joe Tucker
 Rosa Mae Stanvik
 Ruth McLellan
 Clyde Heater
 Helen Tucker
 Melvin Tucker
 Mary Tucker
 John Tucker
 Samuel Murphey
 Ella Murphey
 Lottie DeWitt
 Clarence DeWitt
 Ernest Winter
 Wm. Jackson
 Annie Jackson
 Eva Henley
 Ed Henley
 Bert McBride
 Sophie McBride
 Ruth Butterman
 Conrad Jones
 Eva Jones
 Chester Jones
 Kenneth Jones
 Ethel Jones
 Kenneth Raddis
 George Whitehorn
 Jennie Whitehorn
 Dorothy Whitehorn
 Gertrude Whitehorn
 Mrs. Hughes
 Earl Jones
 Oliver Soderstrom
 Chester Montgomery
 Pauline Montgomery
 Myrtle Montgomery
 George Montgomery
 Ed Green
 Hanna Green
 Harry Green
 John Montgomery
 Maureen Montgomery
 Mary McLellan
 Patrick McLellan
 Andrew McLellan
 Lillian Cram
 Larry Williams
 Fred Henke

Emma Henke
 Max Damberger
 Besse Damberger
 Samuel Strahan
 John Higgens
 Opal Weir
 Langdon Weir
 Walter Rochon
 Ruth Rochon
 Henry Graf
 Alice Graf
 R. (Bob) Holladay
 Otto Anderson
 Johanna Ekholm
 Elsie Christians
 Wm. Christians
 Reid Runge
 R. (Bob) Philips
 Beulah James
 Samuel James
 Catherine Graf
 John Graf
 James McLellan
 Ross McLellan
 Irene Winters
 Fred Sheets child
 Mary Murdock
 John Murdock
 Cameron Murdock
 R. (Shorty) Crawford
 Archie Seufert
 Hilding Adamson
 Lily Stenlund
 Ole Stenlund
 Viva Murat
 A. (Slim) Murat
 Thelmar Hagen
 Manuel Morgan
 Carrie Monson
 Mons Monson
 Thibeau (two) infants
 Sharron Batke
 Floyd Batke
 Marvin Batke
 James W. Murphy
 Louis Judd
 Mrs. J. Camenish
 Jacob Camenish
 Todd baby
 Sam Todd
 Margaret Todd
 Lena Johnson
 Carl Johnson
 Oscar Pearson

Hjordis Dahl
 Stanley Nordvie
 Eldon Nordvie
 Oscar Nordvie
 Fred Ewing Jr.
 Wm. (Billy) Sheppard
 Mae Sheppard
 Anna Rake
 Dennis Rake
 Albert Komishke
 Catherine Klemme
 Myrtle Thompson
 Dick Rake baby
 Hertha Hilker
 Avilda Rake
 Eddy Rake
 Jane Martin
 Joseph Cook
 Ruth Cook
 Fred Ewing
 Mae Ewing
 Carl Larson
 Betsy Henrikson

Signe Henrikson
 Albert Henrikson
 Pat Cavanue
 Hubble child
 Duncan child
 unknown
 Ordge baby
 Nels Torkleson
 Buck Poon
 Dykstra baby
 Charles (Bill) Clovis
 Ray Clovis
 Mrs. Hill
 Henry Peterson
 Astrid Peterson
 Meune child
 George Vasey
 John Swartzhold
 Wm. Yonker
 Elevator man
 Helen Lausen
 Chris Lausen
 Christen Lausen
 Christian Henrikson

Dahl, Ben and Shirley Erickson, Leona Hjorth, Arnold Jacobson, Anne-Marie Knudtson, Alice Rude, Doris Stolee, Dorothy Stolee, Ruth Vikse, Pat Wood, Beth Lawson.

I apologize to any members whose names were left out unintentionally.

The good times the members had getting together, expressing praise and criticism to one another will always be remembered fondly by each and everyone involved.

submitted by Georgina E. Froebel

Donalda Centennial Art Club

The organizational meeting of the Donalda Centennial Art Club was held April 14, 1967 in the Donalda School.

The name for the club was aptly chosen as it was formed during Centennial Year.

The founding executive was: President — Mrs. Annabelle Jones, Secretary — Mrs. Georgina Froebel, Treasurer — Mrs. Hazel Jones.

Some the founding members were: Mary Fitzpatrick, Margaret Heater, Charles Kneeland, Beth Lawson, Byron Norman, Verlie Steinhoff, Vi Steinhoff, Evelyn Vikse, Doris Wotherspoon, Norman Wright, Madeline Goodwin.

The Art Club became affiliated with the Department of Extension, University of Alberta.

Mrs. Jean Roth of Camrose was the instructor for the first two years.

The first art show held by the Art Club was in the Donalda Community Hall on May 31st, 1969. Over the past years the shows have been held in conjunction with the U-Go Weavers Club and the Donalda Coulee Ceramics Club, which has proved highly successful.

The art club was inactive for a few years but the members never failed to get together either in the coulees or in a member's home for a painting session. It was re-organized again in 1976 with many of the original members along with the following: Edna

Donalda and Community Council

The Donalda and Community Council is the group that takes care of the business of the Community Hall.

Everyone living in the Village or District is automatically a member of this organization and to participate need only to come to the meetings and voice an opinion.

The Council has been responsible for many events held in Town, such as; Donalda's Homecoming Days of 1979; Klondike Nites (1980 being the 25th annual Klondike Nites), they have helped the curling rink with their artificial ice plant and heaters and helped the ball teams and any other group that has come to the meetings and let their needs be known. The U-Go Weavers were backed by this group when they bought their building, and they were very grateful.

The Donalda and District Community Hall is a great place for gatherings and an asset to our Community. It was built by the people of the community for the people in the days before such things as Government Grants. It is all paid for and there is money in the bank, thanks to all the people of the community who have worked so hard for Klondike Nites and other events, and by participating in the monthly meetings.

Coulee Ceramists' Club

On May 4, 1966, a group met at the Donalda School to see if there was enough interest in pottery to form a club. It was decided to notify each outlying district around Donalda, let one or two from each area take the Leadership Course, after which more members from each area could be enrolled.

The club was formed. President — June Wright, Vice President — Donald Lawson, Secretary — Beatrice Kahl. The name chosen for the club, and later registered with the government — "Coulee Ceramists' Club".

An exposure course was held in the Community

Hall basement and Miss Rosalind Grant, a potter registered with the Government's Program of Culture and Development, gave a very interesting demonstration showing how wheel work and hand building with clay could be done, she explained the kiln firing and the glazing procedures, and enthusiasm grew.

The first effort to raise money was a Silver Tea, which was a success. Later, films were ordered and shown in the school auditorium every Saturday evening, which proved to be quite popular amongst the younger set and thus served a dual purpose.

At the ending of the first year, we had twelve members and had purchased a used Kiln. Norman Wright built the first wheel we used: it was a combination Kick and Electrical Wheel which proved very easy to handle. Later we purchased two others, one Portable Electric and the other another combination Kick and Electric.

We were encouraged to use the Interest Free Loan Contract sponsored by the Recreation of Youth and Culture through the government, so were able to get the equipment needed.

We have had very good instructors: Beth Roth of Camrose, Mary Borgstrom of Provost (well-known for her Primitive firing), Rossie Grant of Edmonton, and Walt Grigat of Leduc were some of the first. Each one taught a different technique.

We have had some very interested and accomplished potters come out of the club. Some have moved away, while others have continued from the beginning. Every term we get new members and sometimes old ones returning.

The average membership has been quite stable throughout the years, and the Coulee Ceramists Club have shared a part in the annual Arts and Crafts Show that has been presented in Donalda each spring.

The 1966 members were: June and Norman Wright, and Louis Johnson, who planted the interest and put much effort into the club to really get it



Coulee Ceramists Club "A Primitive Firing" of pots in Donalda Coulee.

started. Beatrice Kahl, Eleanor Cook, Esther Potter, and Donald Lawson were staunch supporters, as were the rest — Doris Stolee, Berit Hagen, Edna Whamond, Viola Stanvik, Gladys Whitney, and Laura Pearson, all members from the beginning.

Donalda Coulee Friendship Club

by Beth Lawson

The Donalda Senior Citizens organized and formed a club April 30th, 1973. On May 25th, the club was given the name of "Donalda Coulee Friendship Club". Names appearing on the books during the ground work of the club are: Mr. and Mrs. Nels Sjostrom; Anna Bergstrom; Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Jones; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lawson; Mr. and Mrs. Earl Jones; Mr. and Mrs. Nels Goransrud; Miss Margaret Lawson; Mrs. Lars Larson; Mrs. Susan Hall; Mr. Joe Tucker; Mr. and Mrs. Mike Rogutski; Mr. Sid Cram; Mr. and Mrs. Otto Paulson; Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Rasmussen; Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Steinhoff; Mrs. Elsie Nordvie; Mrs. Alice McLellan; Mrs. Minnie Fitzpatrick.

Executive for 1973 were: President — Sherman Jones; Vice-president — Don Lawson; Sect. — Elva Larson; Treasurer — Susan Hall. Finance Committee — Susan Hall, Joe Tucker, Sid Cram. Maintenance Comm.; Earl Jones, Mike Rogutski, Dagney Norman, Gudrin Rasmussen.

Lunch Comm.; Margaret Kite, Anna Bergstrom, Margaret Lawson, Irene Rogutski.

Excursion Comm.; Annie Jones, Hazel Jones, Alice McLellan, Ray Banta.

Arts & Crafts Comm.; Nola Heater, Carline Jones, Don Lawson.

Recreation Comm.; Nels Goransrud, Beth Lawson, Randolph Rasmussen.

The Club entered a float in the 60th anniversary parade. They also issued a booklet on things that happened; with many points of interests for the anniversary. Co-editors were — Hazel Jones, Beth Lawson, Dagney Norman, Margaret Lawson.



Primitive Firing of the Coulee Ceramists Club.

The Donalda Coulee Friendship Club meets in the Donalda Hall on the first Tuesday of each month at 8:00 P.M. Only one spouse need be fifty-five years to join, we welcome you all, even if your spouse is only 16. The young can offer so much to the older ones and everyone is headed that way.

Our club has had a membership as high as 45 but only an average of 18 attend meetings. The Donalda and Community Council do not charge the Senior Citizen club for using the hall for meetings or for entertainment for which we are grateful.

Our club are members of Alberta Council on Aging, Alberta Pensioners Concerned and Alberta Societies Act. With the help of a Government grant we bought a piano with a bench and cover, for the hall basement, to be used for wedding receptions or other supervised entertainment. Our club has not been able to get much use of the piano as we have no pianist in the club.

Our club members are working with the village council members to make Donalda a better place for our senior citizens, by getting self-contained apartments or a senior citizens home. Also, we are trying to find a way of making maintenance of our homes easier, both in winter and summer. We are hoping for help through P.S.S., but you know how it is — we must all help.

Our group has had a couple of nice picnics at the Spruce Coulee Community Centre. We catered for the Battle River Tourist Cavalcade with a Pot Luck dinner in the basement of the hall in 1978. Our group takes care of the "Gold Nugget Saloon" (serve soft drinks and chips) at Donalda's annual Klondike Nights in February. We had a float in the Parade for Homecoming Days, and many, if not all, of our members participated in booths throughout both days, making this an unforgettable day and a successful Homecoming Event.

Our club sponsors a Cash Bingo, monthly in the hall. It is held on the third Wednesday each month, we play twenty games. The master card costs one (\$1.00) dollar, and the extra cards are three for a dollar. We have a blackout game for \$20.00 and a jackpot — other games range in prizes of \$2.00; \$3.00; and \$5.00. Coffee is free. We welcome you all to our bingos, card parties, etc.

We have had many good parties and Christmas parties, not forgetting the great trip that Beth and Sid took to Hawaii, the only thing missing was the camera which no one took. Oh, the Xmas trees that we have decorated. No one knew of all the song-birds we had, the night the Rhythm band played, complete with wash boards, mixing spoon, etc. We do have a good time when we get together.

Executive — 1974 — Pres. Mike Rogutski; Vice-Pres. Verlie Steinhoff; Sect. Beth Lawson; Treas. Susan Hall.

Executive — 1975 — Pres. Marie McKay; Vice-Pres. Susan Hall; Sect. Verlie Steinhoff; Treas. Dagney Normay.

Executive — 1976 — Pres. Marie McKay; Vice-Pres. Etta Kline; Sect. Verlie Steinhoff; Treas. Elizabeth Howlett.

Executive — 1977 — Pres. Hilda Norman; Vice-Pres. Marie McKay; Sect. Nellie Armstrong; Treas. Elizabeth Howlett.

Executive — 1978 — Pres. Beth Schmidt; Vice-Pres. Hilda Norman; Sect. Elizabeth Howlett; Treas. Mike Rogutski.

Executive — 1979 — Pres. Archie Armstrong; Vice-Pres. Martin Jorgenson; Sect. Elizabeth Howlett; Treas. Erna Ekholm.

Pres. Martin Jorgenson; Sect. Elizabeth Howlett; Treas. Erna Ekholm

Directors: Arnold Norman, Ray Zipse

Get Well Cards: Nellie Armstrong

Bingo Chairman: Emil Ekholm

Lunch: To take turns alphabetically.

Donalda Curling Club

The Donalda Curling Club started building a curling rink in 1945, with Bert Roberts, the carpenter and all other work being done by volunteers. Curling began December 9, 1946, not because the Rink wasn't finished and ready to go, but because Curling Rocks could not be bought because of post-war shortages.

Money for this project was borrowed from anyone in the town or district with \$5.00 or more to lend. Notes were issued stating, "To be paid back, if and when the club is financially able."

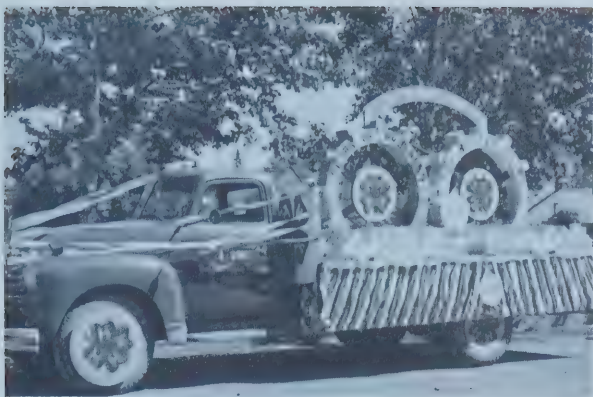
At the first club banquet on March 14, 1947, after a very successful year of curling, part of the borrowed money was to be paid back, the payees being determined by throwing the names in a hat. The shareholders were all paid back in a few years.

Other than curling the club has contributed in socials, dances, bingos, barbeques, Klondike nites, etc. in the community.

The club invites all persons, especially newcomers to join in their activities. Many bonspiels are held throughout the season, Men's open, family, mixed, Ladies, Student Union, etc. Good curling to you all.

The Donalda 4-H Dairy Club

The Donalda 4-H Dairy Club was organized in 1948, with fifty-three members. Mr. Fred Henke Sr., was the leader. The first achievement day was held



4-H Float.

August 2, 1949. This club was the largest in the province in those years. Mr. Henke Sr., continued as leader for ten years.

Mrs. Percy Rider was the leader from 1958 to 1964 with an active club of sixteen to twenty members. Flack McKay became the club leader in 1964, and he encouraged the members to become active in 4-H Public Speaking. Herb Awe took over from Flack in 1966 and interested the members in Exchange trips with other clubs in southern Alberta, Manitoba and Northwest Territories.

In 1972, a change took place and a multi-club was formed. A Dairy and Beef Club under the leadership of Richard Cram. The club celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary that year along with Donalda's Sixtieth. In 1973, Mel Hiller was leader of the Dairy and Beef Club. In 1976-77, the club was disbanded for a year. In 1977, Jim Conibear re-organized the club with fifteen members. In 1978, Herb Awe was again the leader with eleven members.

This club has been organized for thirty-one years and has been sponsored by the Donalda Co-op Creamery all these years.

Donalda Guild

An organizational meeting was held at the home of Esther Potter on January 16, 1967 with the idea of forming a working unit for church and community support. The first executive was: President — Elaine Stewart; Vice-President — Deanna Sawers; Secretary — Georgina Froebel; Treasurer — Shirley Steinhoff; Program Convenor — Leona Hjorth.

This group operated for a number of years and did a number of things in the community: Sponsored Brownies and Guides; Helped U.C.W. at various functions; Catered to weddings, and open-houses; Monetary donation to Ski Club; Contributions to Sunday Schools in Donalda; Donation to Stettler

Hospital; Sponsored Santa Claus Day in Donalda, to mention only a few. They were a service group sponsoring youth and did a lot to help make the community better.

Donalda Klondike Nites

On April 10th, 1954, Donalda Community Council held a very large Auction Sale, lasting seven and one half hours to raise money to complete their community hall. Mayor Chris Lausen officially opened the sale and auctioneer Archie MacDonald of Red Willow called the sale. The sale was a huge success and from the proceeds, Donalda and Community Council reported that it had only \$2,500.00 left to raise in order to complete their community hall. Jim Iverach, manager of Donalda Bank of Commerce, suggested a "Klondike Nite" might be held to raise the much needed funds. Donalda held its first Klondike Nite in 1955 as one of their monthly community nights to raise money while still building the hall. It proved so successful that it was decided to make "Klondike at Donalda" a yearly event.



Klondike Can-Can Girls 1956, Norma Gimby, Joyce Williams, Sharon Gimby, Lynn Parkin and Leona Konschuh.

On Friday, January 20th, 1956, Donalda held its first evening of Klondike Gold Rush Days with Bob Wotherspoon, president of the community council, acting as Master of Ceremonies. The stage was set with slabs giving the 1890 setting, walls were decorated with bear and coyote skin, snow shoes, trappers effects, stuffed animal heads, antlers, gold panning equipment (courtesy of Bert Woodcock, C.N.R. agent and his wife, Alix).

The Can Can girls were: Norma Gimby, Joyce Williams, Sharon Gimby, Lynn Parkin and Leona Stanvick. Don Lawson played the "Stranger" in the



The cast in "Shooting of Dan McGrew" 1956: Back to front: Casey Jones, Eric Hjorth, Fred Henke, Willie Christians, front row: Chris. Peter Lausen, Don Lawson, Donnie Wotherspoon, Tom Goddard and Walter Mykytiw.

pantomime "The Shooting of Dan McGrew", Tom Goddard was 'Dan McGrew', Willie Christians was 'Lou', Casey Jones was the bartender, Eric Hjorth was the Juke-box Kid, and the sheriffs were Fred Henke and Flack McKay. Nola Heater did the narration.

The big celebration included dance hall girls, gambling tables with phoney money, bustled belles and bearded males.

At the 1957 Klondike event the 'Lady known as Lou' was enacted by Donny Wotherspoon. At this event Jimmy Orde, Donalda's own western and T.V. singer, was a visitor at Donalda and kindly consented to sing several numbers. Billy Zuehlke, also a visitor, played violin accompanied by Henry Monson on the guitar for dancing later in the evening



Klondike Nite 1957, Helen Gimby and Sherman Jones.

(this was unrehearsed entertainment). Prizes were awarded for having the most phoney money.

In 1957 Geoff Scatchard, local bank manager, proposed we try running Klondike Queens for 1958 Klondike Nites. This proved to be an excellent addition to the program.

In 1958, Marlene Norman of Donalda, now Mrs. Jim West of Hepworth, Ontario won the competition by selling the most tickets. In 1959, Lily Mae Murat of Donalda, now Mrs. Dick Dais of Calgary, was the winner. In 1960, Judy Bergstrom of Meeting Creek, now Mrs. Deul of Edmonton won. 1961 saw Audrey Zeigler of Red Willow, now Mrs. Rice of Medicine Hat win. In 1962 it was Sharron Damberger now Mrs. Daley of Red Deer. 1963 saw Heather Jones of Donalda, now Mrs. Deral Lang of Gadsby the winner. In 1964 it was Sharon Fitzpatrick of Donalda, now Mrs. Roger Myers of Camrose. 1965 was Mrs. Judy Tucker of Donalda. 1966 was Miss Joy Gridley teacher at Donalda, now Mrs. Dale Kobi of Stettler. 1967 was Mrs. Muriel Holladay of Donalda and now of Red Deer. 1968 was Linda Anderson of Donalda now Mrs. Larry Enders of Rosalind. 1969 was Carol LaRose of Donalda now Mrs. A. Procter, Stettler. 1970 was Linda VanEaton of Stettler, now Mrs. Garet of Red Deer. 1971 was Deanna Sehlstrom of Donalda, now Mrs. Rutz of Donalda. 1972 was Marilyn Elliot of Bashaw now Mrs. Kerik of Bashaw. 1973 was Cathy Schultz of Bashaw now Mrs. T. Stanvick of Donalda. 1974 was Barbara Crumly of Donalda now Mrs. Henderson of Brooks. 1975 was Colleen Weins of Bashaw and 1976 was Susan Elliot of Donalda now Mrs. L. Rae of Edmonton. 1977 was Mrs. Lilian Norman of Donalda and 1978 was Teresa Vallet of Donalda, now Mrs. Jarmen of Stettler, and 1979 was Mrs. Valerie Damberger.

Some of the stage presentations throughout the years were: The Cremation of Sam McGee, Klondike



Ladies on stage in costume Klondike Nites 1956.



Doris and Bob Wotherspoon Klondike Nite 1956.

Sweethearts, Skagway Quartet, Saga of Bill McKie, Strange Things are Done 'Neath the Midnight Sun, Sourdough Singers, Can Can Girls, Can Can Kittens, Gold Rush Swingers, Ricky and the Klondike Kids, Can Can Boys, Klondike Bob, and the magic of the 'Professor' by Don Lawson, who by 1970 had mushed along the trail for fifteen consecutive years to entertain at this show. Vocalist Mrs. "Klondike Betty" Towers is another favorite performer, who returns each year to entertain.

Sheriffs throughout the years have done an excellent job of keeping law and order. The largest crowd at Klondike was on February 24th, 1968 when the newly renovated hall accommodated 1103 Klondikers.

Each year a local lady is chosen to be 'Klondike Kate'. Her role is to help make everyone feel welcome. Mrs. Doris Wotherspoon was the first 'Kate', followed by Margaret Matheson, Beth Lawson, Bernice Elliot and Etta Kline. John Kahl one of Donalda's Klondikers, came to the fifteenth annual event to celebrate his 90th birthday; everyone sang "Happy Birthday John." Ten years ago, Mrs. Minnie Fitzpatrick was honored for being the eldest Klondike worker. She is now 93 years of age.

One year Klondike concluded with a "Klondike Power Toboggan Rally". It was held on the Sunday afternoon, following the two nights of Klondike. The well chosen track through the hills and valley to the north of the Village was under the direction of Daryl Clement and John Matheson. Another Power Toboggan Rally was held in conjunction with the grand opening of Willow Canyon Ski Hill.

Willow Canyon Ski Club

Work on the establishment of a ski hill in the Meeting Creek Valley, just North of Donalda, began in the Fall of 1969 and the first skiing at that site took place on January 24, 1970.

The idea for a skiing facility in the area somewhere within easy driving distance from the main population area in the County of Stettler was born during the summer of 1969. Early promoter (Bob Willis) of the ski hill, criss-crossed the County of Stettler during the late summer in search of a suitable site. Just such a hill was found the weekend of September 13 and 14, 1969 on the pasture land of Ray Fitzpatrick, and an organizational meeting to get the project started was held September 18. This meeting marked the start of the Willow Canyon Ski Club, owners and operators of the Donalda Ski Hill.

Members of the first executive were President Bob Willis; Vice-President Louis Johnson; Secretary Kathy Willis; Treasurer Dennis Olstad; Directors Ron McMeeken, Andy Birchill, Greg Brandenburg, Cor deRuiter, Tony Dinnebier, Isabelle McKay, Don Hennel, Wally Westlund, and Jim Davis.

Work on the site began in mid-October with the staking out of runs and the towline. Work on the chalet started November 1 and was completed November 30, 1969. Construction work and bush clearing took place each weekend that fall and was near completion by Christmas. Concrete pilings for the tow were poured on December 11.

Most of the work at the Willow Canyon Ski Hill was done by volunteers. The contractors who did some of the preparation work either donated their time and equipment or charged only enough to cover fuel and materials. There were many volunteers who contributed greatly during the construction phase at the Willow Canyon Ski Hill. Those who can be singled out for their outstanding efforts are Don Hennel, Wally, Neil and Ron Westlund, Dennis Olstad, Jim Davis, Gary Rushton, Louis Bell, Louis Johnson, Casper Froebel, and Bob Willis. These men each contributed much more of their time and effort than might be expected of anyone assisting with a community project.

The Willow Canyon Ski Hill was officially opened on Saturday, March 1, 1970 by County of Stettler Councillor, Les Damberger and Donalda Mayor, Gary Clement.

The facility continues to operate because of generous volunteer effort and grants from the County of Stettler Regional Recreation Board.

Many improvements have been made to the hill. The tow line has been much improved with the power plant at the bottom of the hill and a shed built around

it. Several more runs have been cleared and opened. A jump for free style skiing has been opened. A telephone was installed in the chalet in 1978 and lights for night skiing have been installed for this season. The site and surrounding area also lends itself well to cross-country skiing.

Two of the younger members (Roger Johnson and Ward Kvemshagen) competed and won in Bentley in the slalom competition in 1977. They went on to the Alberta Winter Games in Medicine Hat, Alberta, where Roger took Third place (Bronze) and Ward placed well.

We all realize that it was the dedication and hard work of Bob Willis of Stettler who made the ski hill possible.

U-Go Weavers

In 1975 arrangements were made, through the Home Economics office in Stettler, to have an Adult Education course in weaving taught in Donalda. Gordon Graziano of the Visual Arts Branch was the instructor. Many of the ladies taking the course wanted to continue weaving but they felt the cost of a loom was prohibitive. Thus the U-Go Weavers was organized. The club was registered with the Societies Act in April of 1975. The first President was Viola Stanvik, with Beth Schmidt the first secretary and Marie McKay as treasurer. Other charter members still with the club are Jeanne Lyster, Etta Kline, Dagney Norman and Beth Lawson.

These members have been very busy throughout the years. They have had help and support from many people. The community Council purchased their first loom and the weaving club borrowed money from this group (which was repaid promptly) to buy a building on Main Street. This building was sold in 1978 and the club moved into a room in the school basement. The Weavers have co-sponsored the Arts and Crafts shows and have presented several talent shows. These programs have been planned and arranged by Victoria Stenlund.

Weaving has been put aside many times for more pressing events. At present, the Weavers room is the headquarters for the Donalda History Book. When this project is completed the U-Go Weavers first priority will be weaving.

Donalda United Church

In the beginning services were held in homes in the area, as there was no ordained ministers. Records show that a Mr. Plemming, a local miner conducted services. Services were later held in the school in Donalda.



Kelly Huff, Bob Warren, Bob Wotherspoon, Howard Gimby, Sylvia Jones, Dolores Carlson, Sharon Gimby, Evelyn Clement, Mary Fitzpatrick, Edie Fitzpatrick, Norma Gimby, Joyce Williams, Evelyn Jones, Sandra Fitzpatrick, Kathie Halseth, Eleanor Hillaby, Pat Wotherspoon, Carol Huff, Evelyn H., Pat Rake.



Donalda United Church Choir 1956.

The following records are from our original book and we think they bear repeating:

“The first record we have of an organized pastoral charge with boundaries outlined was called the “Donalda Mission of the Methodist Church” and it consisted of Donalda, Meeting Creek, Little Rock, Buena Vista and Skybo districts. The first minister, Rev. S. C. Ratcliff, called a meeting on August 12th, 1915 to form a Quarterly Board. The meeting was attended by Mrs. A. C. DeWitt, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hearonemus, Mr. L. F. Krumm, Mr. O. P. Moore. The following were elected as the first Official Board: Mr. George Quesseth, Steward, Donalda, Mr. A. L. Harvey, Sunday School Superintendent, Donalda, Dr. W. H. Wall, President of the Adult

Bible Class; Mr. O. P. Moore, Society Representative, Donalda; Mrs. A. S. Dewitt, President Ladies' Aid, Donalda; Mr. W. E. Lee, Steward, Buena Vista; Mr. L. F. Krumm, Sunday School Superintendent, Buena Vista; Mr. Dykstra, Social Representative, Skybo; Mr. Jacob Hearonemus, Steward, Skybo; Mrs. Jacob Hearonemus, Sunday School Superintendent, Skybo; Mr. H. Sperry, Steward, Meeting Creek; Mr. Otto Tiffany, Steward, Little Rock; Miss Jenny Torhjem, President Young People's Society, Little Rock. Mr. E. H. Green, Social Representative, Little Rock.

The parsonage was erected in 1915 and Quarterly Official Board appointed W. E. Lee, George Lowry and Louis Wallace.

The little church has served well and faithfully. It has seen continuous service since it was first opened and over 2000 services of worship have been conducted there with over 80,000 persons attending. Over 400 persons have been baptized there, more than 135 couples married and over 250 funeral services conducted.

In 1925 the Donalda Methodist Mission became part of the United Church of Canada, and at almost the same time, because of better roads and better methods of transportation, Red Willow became part of the pastoral charge. Many years ago Meeting Creek and Little Rock ceased to be a part of the charge. Buena Vista and Skybo became one preaching point and still carry on as the Buena Vista congregation. For a number of years Science Mound and Buena Vista held regular services in their district

schools, but these have been dropped and now worship is conducted regularly at Donalda, Red Willow and Buena Vista."

To bring the story up to date we would like to recall the names of the ministers who served first the Union Church and from 1925 the Donalda United Church. The first ordained minister was Rev. Radcliffs, but the names of some of the student ministers who served were Mr. Kinch, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Forman and Mr. Goddard. Rev. Simon was next and as recorded was the driving force in having a church built. Rev. Brooks followed and served from 1923 to 1927 and was responsible for publishing the first newspaper in Donalda.

In checking the records it is interesting to note that many people gave their talents for long periods of time. Treasurers and secretaries such as Mr. Carman, Mr. Oatway, Mr. Dempsey, H. McKay, O. M. Vikse, Milton Heater, R. Wotherspoon, Choir leaders and organists, Mrs. Simon, Mrs. Pullyblank, Mrs. M. Duke, Mrs. Doris Wotherspoon and Mr. Laurie Williams.

Sunday School Superintendents and helpers other than noted previously, Mr. Earl Hoover, Mrs. O. M. Vikse, Mrs. Margaret Halseth, Miss Margaret Lawson gave of their talents for long periods of time.

No record of the Church is complete without mention of the Ladies' organization. Without them the church board would have been more destitute than once through the years, and their contributions cannot be counted. A lengthy article could be written about their activities. Many varied and wonderful are the stories of chicken suppers, bazaars, teas, quilting bees. And through all their activities they have never lost sight of the more important aspect of their meeting — fellowship and worship.

We notice that Mrs. DeWitt sat on the first Official Board as the president of the Ladies' Aid. Red Willow, too has had an active Ladies' Aid from the beginning of the church there. The Science Mound Ladies' Aid started as a unit of the Red Cross during World War I — to be specific it was July 26, 1917, and continued as a Ladies' Aid after the war. Meeting of all three groups have been continuous. The name "Ladies' Aid" was changed a few years ago to "Women's Auxiliary" and only in 1962 to the "United Church Women", but they remain the same hard working, dedicated groups.

During the time of Rev. R. Christie a group of parents formed a scout group. There have been many persons who have helped with this group. Dick Chapman was one of the first leaders. Later Dee Kahl, George Elliot, Bryan Tucker and Eddie Green, and Peter McKechnie. C.G.I.T. groups have been



United Church Confirmation Class 1956: Minister Rev. Bob Warren, Norris Halseth, Sandra Fitzpatrick, Sharon Gimby, Donnie Wotherspoon, Carol Huff, Muriel Jones, and Norma Gimby.



Confirmation Class, Donaldda United Church; Heather Jones, Linda Heater, Alana Milne, John Pearson, Doug Bailey, Forrest Hagen, Jimmy Bailey, Doug Hagen, outside of picture Darlene Damberger.

looked after by Mrs. E. Whitehorn, Mrs. Potter, Betty Klink, Mrs. Mary Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Ina Damberger.

It should be noted that the present pulpit and communion table in the church was built and donated by Rev. J. L. Wright.

The memorial organ was an ideal of Mrs. Norma Bond, nee Anderson, who lived in Vancouver at the time, and encouraged adherents and members of the Donaldda United Church to contribute to an organ fund. It has been enjoyed by many.

Many more should have been mentioned for their contributions to the life of the church in Donaldda, so for those who have been missed, forgive us and be aware that others know of your contributions.

The Donaldda — Red Willow charge became part of the Stettler County Pastoral Charge in 1970, and has been served by having services each week in the Donaldda Church only. Our present minister is Rev. Wm. Cantelon who resides in Stettler.

Rev. Bosomworth	1927 to 1931
Rev. Fawcett	1931 to 1934
Rev. Joe Bainbridge	1934 to 1935
Rev. Wesley Bainbridge	1935 to 1938
Rev. J. L. Wright	1938 to 1943
Rev. R. Christie	1943 to 1946
Rev. Rice	1946
Rev. Bert Mather	1946 to 1950
Rev. Peter Ream	1950 to 1952
Rev. J. T. Wylie	1952 to 1954
Robert Warren	1954 to 1956
Rev. Dave Dickey	1956 to 1961
Robert Warren	1961 to 1963
Rev. J. T. Wood	1963 to 1969
Rev. J. Evans	

Rev. J. DeVrees	1970 to 1972 Team ministry
Miss Shirley Munroe	Stettler Pastoral Charges
Rev. W. Wright	1972 to 1977
Rev. Allan Smith	
Rev. Allan Smith	1972 to 1978
Rev. K. Eutin	1977 to 1979



Joyce and Peter Ream and Family.

A Part of God's Creation

There's a part of God's creation — the great rolling prairie west
Tis a place that's very dear to the ones who know it best;
From the hilltops, eyes can wander to the farms for miles around
O'er the homes and fields and pastures where the prairie life abound.
The Meeting Creek meanders where the buffalo once did feed,
And Indians camped by Buffalo Lake that supplied their simple needs
Berries, wood, fish and water — shelter for their tents was found
The women worked, the children played, men hunted all the prairie round.
Then the white men came to homestead, and they settled by the score
Bring with them "civilization", villages grew more and more.
Great the pioneers who settled — building homes and church and school
Enduring necessary hardships, living by the Golden Rule.

Always helping friends and neighbors when and where the need arose
 Breaking sod and planting gardens — sharing all their joys and woes
 Then leaving such a grand tradition: Great names we'll recall once more
 When "The Roll is Called up Yonder" over on that farther shore.
 Still the Meeting Creek meanders through the coulee lazily
 Still the rolling prairie farmlands stretch as far as eye can see
 Still the Buffalo Lake stands sentinel where the buffalo once did roam
 A great part of God's creation to the folk who call it home.

Robert Warren

Sharon Lutheran Church

This is the Donalda Lutheran Church history translated from the records of Sarons Norsk Evangelical Lutheran Frimenighed, now known as Sharon Evangelical Church.

The settlers came to this area from 1902-1904 and were mostly of Norwegian descent. They were God fearing people who longed to have a House of Worship in what was then a wilderness, but first they had to build their homes of log or frame and later the school houses.

On August 16th, 1906, a group of Norwegian Lutheran families met at the Ole Jacobson home to organize the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Free Church Congregation together with Meeting Creek (Ferry Point) under the direction of Rev. J. A. Stavney. At this first meeting a constitution was drawn



Betsy and August Vikse — Sharon Lutheran Church Pianist and custodian for many years.

up. Article One in their constitution declared the name of the congregation to be Sarons Norsk Evangelical Lutherske Frimenighed. The following were elected to office: Chairman, Oscar Olson; Secretary, Eilert Knudtson; Deacons, Oscar Olson and Ole Jacobson; Deaconesses, Mrs. Oscar Olson and Mrs. Ole Jacobson; Treasurer, George Quesseth.

A committee of three namely Oscar Olson, Chris Sorenson and E. Knudtson were appointed to make up a letter of call to Rev. Stavney.

Founding members were Mr. and Mrs. Ole Jacobson. E. Knudtson family; Mr. and Mrs. O. Olson; O. A. Broughton family; Chris Sorenson; Bernt Bergensen; George Quesseth; Mr. and Mrs. Einar Quesseth; Hans Solomonson; Mr. and Mrs. C. Layher; Mrs. Olea Quesseth; Emma Quesseth; Stephen Solomonson; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Arneberg, and Andrew Anderson.



Sharon Lutheran Church Float 1963.

We give praise to these staunch beginners but no less to them that carried the load later with dedicated efforts in furthering the work of this church and maintaining the strength of the congregation up to this present time.

From the old records we see names of many more supporters in the past — to mention some — Ole Stanvik; Peter Stanvik; S. P. Lee; Chas. Gray; Chris Henrikson; Mrs. S. C. Otteson; Mrs. Hans Elefsen; Mrs. Sorenson; A. Berg; J. R. Stolee; L. O. Ramstad; Emil and Henry Ramstad; Olaf and Peter Nordvie; G. Friberg; Nils Larson; B. A. Vikse; Tom Solomonson; A. Nesmoen; August Johnson; D. A. Rake; J. L. Christensen and their families — later the Joe Johnson family; Snipsteads and Jensens.

By 1908, records in the Spruce Coulee Norwegian Lutheran congregation show that this area was

also organized and registered. Rev. J. A. Stavney from Ferry Point was conducting regular services, confirmation classes, etc. in their homes and in the Spruce Coulee School when it was completed.

In 1910 the Bethlehem (Ferry Point), Sharon and Spruce Coulee congregations agreed to call Pastor Froyen to serve them jointly.

In 1912, lots No. 9 and 10 were purchased in Donalda on which to build a church.

At this same date Sharon Congregation was incorporated under the laws of Alberta. The construction of the church building took place in 1916.

In 1919 the interior of the church was given special attention to prepare it for their first Christmas (Juletrefest). Chas. Layher was hired to build the platform and platform furniture.

The Sunday School was organized in 1914 with O. A. Broughton appointed as Superintendent. Sunday School was held in the country homes.

Various other organizations were affiliated with this church such as: Young People's Society, Luther League, Junior Mission Band, Girls' Society, Busy Bees and others.

Due to poor attendance on the part of those wishing Norwegian Services, the services were turned to the English language entirely in 1946.

Besides regular church service there have been Prayer meetings, Bible Studies, Parochial School in the holiday months and during the last several years, Sharon joins with other Lutheran Churches for fellowship meetings and Bible Study at Red Deer Lake Bible Camp for a week in July.

Three branches of Ladies' Aids were organized under this church because of distance. They are Sharon Lutheran (country) who are presently joined with Donalda Lutheran (village) and Spruce Coulee. The Spruce Coulee (Wessington) Ladies' Aid is recorded to have started as early as 1904 to raise funds to

sponsor the Parochial School during the summer months. Records show that Sharon Lutheran Ladies have given much support to the church through the years and are grateful to everyone for gifts and help, regardless of whatever venture they undertake.

During Rev. O. K. Olson's Pastorate between 1946 and 1950, the church was moved over onto a new basement, and during Rev. Sogge's Pastorate, the interior of the basement was completed and a new heating system installed to replace the pot-bellied heater. A new front entrance was also constructed. Gust Norman contributed a baptismal font that he artistically designed and made for use at the church.



Sharon Lutheran Sunday School Picnic in the mid 1920's at the Olaf Nordvie home. Back row: Cliff Alveberg; Mabel Stanvik; Simon Stanvik; Maude Alveberg; Esther Hilde; Norman Johnson; Henry Henrikson; Andrew Hilde; Clifford Johnson; Dagny Henrikson; Lila Hilde; Johnny Stanvik, Otto Stanvik; Front row: Rachel Stanvik; Lorna Alveberg; Myrtle Nordvie; Lilly Henrikson; Palmer Nordvie; Donald Brandal; Barney Henrikson; Bert Stanvik.

Prior to Rev. O. K. Olson's arrival in Donalda, the Pete Rasmussen home was purchased jointly with the Ferry Point congregation for a parsonage. This was sold when the Ferry Point congregation joined the Bethany Lutheran Church Parish in 1967.

Though never a large congregation, Sharon Lutheran Congregation have had one youth — Richard Snipstead go into full-time service as Pastor, and two young ladies — Miss Esther Johnson and Mrs. Harold Dalton (nee Anna Erickson) have served as missionaries.

In 1976 an addition was built to the south side of the church including more basement area to allow for washrooms, a second stairway and more Sunday School rooms. Water and sewer was also installed at this time. In the summer of 1979 the interior of the church was redecorated and the exterior also had been re-done previously. The building was insulated in the spring of 1979.

Pastors serving this congregation and Ferry Point (Bethlehem Lutheran) during these many years were: Pastors J. A. Stavney 1906-1908; L. H. Froyen



Rev. and Mrs. Carl Ostby, who served Sharon Lutheran Parish. Note the chains on their back tires.



1972. Sharon L.C.W. Back row — Mrs. Suddaby (visitor), Margaret Jacobson, Mandy Fossen (visitor), Betty Nordvie, Agnes Halseth, Helen Bailey, Margaret Matheson. Second row — Mabel Stanvick, Anna Bergstrom, Dagny Norman. Front row — Viola Stanvik, Edna Whamond, Rosie Stanvik, Louise Hagen.

1908-1910; Mons Gjorde 1911 (during the illness of Froyen); Edward Sand 1914-1915; O. Ellingsen 1915-1916; J. A. Pederson 1917-1919; A. Gillseth 1919-1922; John Alver 1924-1926; Carl Ostby 1926-1928; Johan Rodvick 1929-1937; Edwin Peterson 1938-1944; (passed away Christmas 1978); Gordon Hope (student Pastor) summer of 1945; Ole K. Olson 1945-1950; L. O. Sogge 1950-1955; Student Pastor Philip Nelson summer of 1956; Merle Erickson 1956-1962 (passed away February 1962 and buried at Pleasington), Pastor Don Miller served Sharon Lutheran along with Meeting Creek Church Parish 1962-1966; Rolf Heng, April to October 1966; A. J. Severson 1967-1973; Students C.L.B.I. and retired Pastors from Camrose 1974-1975; Selmer Stolee 1976; Arthur Nelson September 1976 to the present (fall of 1979). Sharon Lutheran congregation give praise and thanks to these devoted servants of Our Lord for their years spent in ministering to this fold.

Gems of Yesteryear

The west corner of Clement's Hardware was the Palace Meat Market.

"Dad Winter" taught the first school in Donalda. There was an ice-cream parlor in Murphy's Drug Store.

The lights were shut off at twelve-midnight.

Donalda had a jail.

At sports day, the highlights were catching a greasy pig and climbing a greasy pole.

Donalda boasted a Doctor, a Druggist, a Lawyer and a newspaper.

There was Saturday night shopping, and movies in the IOOF hall.

There was no night telephone service.

"Main Street" wooden sidewalks were veritable bridges spanning the sloughs.

There was passenger train service between Edmonton and Calgary complete with dining car and parlor, **twice** daily.

The druggists were kept busy filling "Prescriptions" in prohibition days.

A winter job was putting up ice, so that you could grind the old ice-cream freezer during the next summer's hot days.

You wrote on squeaky slates at school, and carried your lunch in a lard pail.

You drove to Sports Days and Ball Games in wagons or buggies pulled with horses.

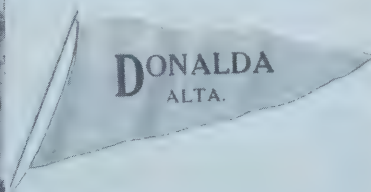
Teen aged sons seldom asked for the use of these vehicles for the evening.

There were few trees on the hardpan; but lots of prairie chickens in the grass.

There was an Annual Fair — and the Chautauqua came to town.



Take a tip and make a trip to



and you will have the time of your life.

Welcome to Donalda.



Chas. Steil and Ole Anderson chatting up-town 1955.



Main Street Donalda, Alta.

On a cold night in the winter of 1945 or 1946, Don and Beth came home and turned on their battery radio. Much to their surprise they heard the voice of Leon Cantelon announcing "Do you have Bed Bugs? If so, go to Peterson Bros. Store in Meeting Creek and get a can of Bed Bug Powder." It came in loud and clear, and was shut down a few days later by the law.

The young fellow had built his own radio transmitter near Meeting Creek.

Milkmen

Donalda in the early days, was supplied with milk first by Chris Johnson who doled it out in a tin quart measure. Later R. J. Stolee supplied the town, and Lynn Peatman helped deliver it.

H. E. Murat and others also served as the source of supply of milk for a few years.

The Ole Anderson Family

Ole Anderson was born in Jemtland, Sweden in 1878. He emigrated with his parents to the United States when he was six years of age. He came to Canada in 1901, living at Wetaskiwin for the next five years. In 1908 he married Mabel Ellingson, and moved back to Riley, Alberta where he ran a livery stable, driving settlers looking for land. Here daughter Ethel was born. Soon after this, he moved back to South Dakota where he farmed until 1918, and three more daughters were born, Doris, Helen and Edith.

In 1918 he and his family moved to Donalda where he went into Hardware business with his brother Vic. Norma, the youngest girl was born in 1918.

In 1924 the hardware store burned to the ground, along with the Lowery general store, and Murphy's Hall. Ole then rebuilt the store which still stands and Vic went to Edberg to go into business for himself. Ole operated the store until 1947 when he sold out to Casey Jones and Bob Wotherspoon. While in the hardware business he was the local undertaker, handled the gas needs of the farmers for many years as North Star Dealer, and later as Shell Agent. He



L-R Mrs. Ole Anderson, Mrs. Mollie Stolee, Mr. J. R. Stolee, Mildred Stolee and baby Grant, Mr. Ole Anderson.

was also International Harvester Dealer during the later years.

Ole and Mabel were great community workers. Mabel in her church work, Women's Institute and being friends to all in town. Ole managed the baseball teams, and drove the hockey players around, and was a prime mover in building the curling rink. He was one of the original directors and the first secretary of the Locker Plant. Mabel was deceased in 1955, and Ole in 1962.

All five of the Anderson girls married. Ethel to Phil Stickney; they had two children, Blair of Winnipeg and Sheila a nurse now living in Vancouver. Ethel and Phil spent their last years in Winnipeg



L-R Mollie Stolee, Mrs. Ole Anderson, Mrs. Fred Erickson, Mrs. Wotherspoon (Bob's Mother) with Patsy. Late 1930's.

where Phil was Manager of a branch of the Bank of Montreal. They have both passed away. Doris married Bob Wotherspoon to whom two children were born, Patricia married Dr. Bob Hatfield and they have five children and live in Calgary. Don has been married twice, and has three children. He is now living in Edmonton. Helen married William Wealberg. They lived in Calgary and had one daughter, Lynn. They are all deceased. Edith married Lyle Fitzpatrick. They still live in Donalda and have two daughters. Sandra, who married Don Pochylko lives at Erskine, and Judy, who married Jack Dinsmore, lives in Donalda. Sandra and Don have two boys and Judy and Jack have two daughters and one son. Norma married Ruben Bond and after living in Calgary moved to Vancouver, They had three daughters and one son. Norma is deceased.

Raymond & Pearl Carlson Family

Donalda 1944-1955

We were married in Camrose, Alberta by Rev. Carlson on June 28th, 1935.

Ray started with the United Grain Growers in 1942. His first elevator was in Kelsey, Alberta. From there he went to Alliance, then to Donalda. We arrived in Donalda on October 31st, 1944 with our five children — Deloris, Gilbert, Loretta, Carroll and Lorne.

Ray was involved in baseball, curling and Odd Fellows Lodge. Pearl was involved in softball, curling and Rebekah Lodge. We were members of the United Church.

In May 1955 we moved to Red Deer for an eight year stay. In 1963 we moved to Edmonton with our youngest son Lorne. The rest of the children are now on their own. Ray was travelling with the U.G.G. as District Manager. In 1967 we moved back to Red Deer for a two year stay. Ray was in the Field Service with the U.G.G. at this time and there were no children with us.

In 1969 we again moved back to Edmonton where Ray was in the U.G.G. office as manager.

In 1973 we moved to Calgary. We stayed there for two years then Ray retired so we moved to Salmon Arm, B.C. in 1975. We had five acres and were building our own home, but hadn't finished the house when Ray passed away on Sept. 22nd, 1976. I sold the acreage and moved back to Calgary in 1977. Most of the children are living there.

Children:

Deloris — had her schooling in Donalda. She took nurses training (Physchiatric) in Essendale, B.C. She is now residing in Calgary with her hus-

band Ivan Juul Hansen and their three children, Daniel, Brent and Lisa. Ivan works for an Insurance Company.

Gilbert — had his schooling in Donalda and Red Deer. He went to S.A.I.T. in Calgary; graduated from University of Edmonton with a degree in Commerce. He is residing in Calgary with his wife Sharon Melvin and their three children, Daryl, Grant, and Chantel. Gil is in real estate at the present time.

Loretta — had her early schooling in Donalda and high school in Red Deer. She has four children, Robin, Melody, Darren and Michelle Sharuga. She is residing in Calgary with her husband Chris Manchew.

Carroll — had elementary schooling in Donalda and secondary schooling in Red Deer. She was a teacher's aide in Edmonton and for several years in Calgary. She is residing on a farm east of Calgary with her husband Claire Coates and two children, Kylla and Cassenro, and is expecting a third child in December.

Lorne — had elementary schooling in Donalda and secondary schooling in Red Deer. Went to N.A.I.T. in Edmonton, and graduated from University of Edmonton with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He is residing in St. Albert, Alberta with his wife Lorraine Manning and one child Karen, and is presently working with an Oil Company.

Garry Clement Family

Garry Clement, eldest son of Winston and Freda Clement was born on December 19, 1940. He took all of his schooling in Donalda except for his last year, which he took Grade 12 at the Lindsay Thurber Composite High School in Red Deer. He was very active in the Scouting movement during his younger years, having attended Cubs until 12 and then graduating into Boy Scouts. At the age of sixteen he attended a World Jamboree of the Scouting movement in England. This was made possible by financial donations from various organizations such as the Sharon Lutheran Church Women, United Church Women, The Donalda Community Council, etc. After completing his schooling he joined the staff of the Imperial Bank of Canada where he worked for 2 years, having transferred once to Stony Plain, Alberta. Then in the Spring of 1962 he returned home to work for his father in the Hardware Store where he and his father still run the Business of Clement and Son Hardware. He was very active in Community Organizations, having served as secretary and treasurer for the Donalda and Community Council, treasurer and President for the Donalda Curling

Club, being Treasurer the year that they installed the Artificial Ice in the Rink, also belonged to the Donalda Board of Trade, Canadian Order of Foresters, the Donalda 100 Club and Manager for the Donalda Senior Baseball Club for many years.

He was wed to Barbara McKay, granddaughter of Mrs. Susan Hall on June 20, 1968. Barbara was from Hayward, California. Born to Garry and Barbara were 3 daughters, Camille, Feb. 1, 1970, Sheila, Feb. 28, 1971 and Tanya, August 13, 1975.

Garry ran for Councillor of the Village of Donalda and became the Mayor in October, 1969. He held the position of Mayor until he retired in October, 1979.

Garry was very instrumental in the planning and building of the new Donalda and District Museum and Village Office which started construction in November, 1979.

Barbara joined the staff of the Village in September 1978 becoming an assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Georgina Froebel where she is employed at present.

Garry and Barbara are still ardent curlers every winter.

Garry and Barbara and girls enjoy living in Donalda and hope to see it continue to grow and prosper in the years to come as it has in the past years.

Dempseys — 1920 to 1941

The Dempseys came to Donalda after World War I, in July of 1920. Jim had been repatriated after being a pilot in the R.A.F. overseas. He looked over various communities in central Alberta and seeing there wasn't a law office between Stettler and Camrose, nor Bashaw and Forestburg chose to settle in Donalda.

He was born at Carberry, Manitoba, January 1891, on a pioneer farm. His father had come from Ireland, to Ontario and on to Carberry in 1880. He experienced all the trials of those early pioneers, a sod shack, then a frame house and on to a huge brick house, as there were by then nine children in the family. Jim attended the country school which only went to grade 8.

In those days, trains of men came from Ontario and eastern places to help the prairie farmers harvest their crops. One such young person was on the Dempsey farm, and seeing the 11 year old Jim (having finished the local school) and being a small lad working so hard on the farm, suggested to him that he further his education by going the 10 miles into the town of Carberry to High School. In those days no one thought of higher education for rural boys, only that they were useful to help on the farm. Jim fol-



Mr. and Mrs. J. Dempsey and Pat with Zipper 1939.

lowed this man's suggestion and in the late fall went into Carberry High School.

In those days, little colleges were scattered over the prairies, off shoots of eastern universities. One such was the Brandon College, 30 miles west of Carberry. Those colleges were such a godsend to girls and boys wishing to achieve a degree in the limited courses taught there.

When Jim graduated from High School, he went there and got his B.A. in 1912, having to work in the summer holidays to finance himself through the next term. He chose law as his profession and went to Halifax to Dalhousie Law School.

Meanwhile World War I was in progress and the need for men was calling, so Jim enlisted in the Air Force. It was the Royal Flying Corps then, and he

trained as a pilot and went overseas. Fortunately he was spared to come home. We were married in September 1919, and came to Donalda. One wonders now how those planes ever stayed aloft.

I "Olene" was born at Dryden, Ontario, July 1895 of an English father and Danish mother, hence my odd name. Thank goodness my middle name is Mary as no one knew if "Olene" was male or female. I taught school in various country schools, finishing in Medicine Hat.

Jim's first office was in the hotel in Donalda. One day Earl Porter, the Municipal Secretary, came into Jim's office and suggested to him they form a partnership. Earl would keep his Secretaryship separate and Jim his law business, but together they would be Valuers, Notary Publics, Real Estate and Insurance Partners. Earl would build a building on Main Street. Dempseys being just beginners, couldn't contribute a dollar and Earl was willing to allow Jim office space in the building rent free. When each of them went home and told their wives, those doubting females said, "You don't get something for nothing" and "Think it over, you know what lawyers are like." However the partnership was formed and a permanent, lasting, agreeable, loving friendship was formed that lasted till death took its toll in Victoria. I must add that Jim did contribute to the expenses of the upkeep of the building — the previous Weaver's Hut on Main Street, now owned by Berval Industries.

Jim and I settled into the village life of Donalda, finding the people very agreeable. We participated in the church, Red Cross, Women's Institute, theatricals, fun games, skating, toboggan riding down the coulee hills, summer camping in tents at Buffalo Lake, card parties, dancing, teas, etc. Jim's business prospered and we built a home, where Percy Jones now lives. We were very happy and content.

Ten years later, Pat was born, and we decided we needed more room, so we traded houses with Mr. Fred Ullman and moved into the house across the street. Another added advantage was the soft water well on his property. Other wells were rust filled, alkali hard water with a most peculiar taste. Here we lived till the next war, World War II broke out and the depression was getting over. Jim again enlisted in the now Royal Canadian Air Force. The uniforms had changed from the Khaki or World War I to the blue of the R.C.A.F. He became adjutant of the Manning Depot in Edmonton.

Meanwhile I had a little kindergarten in our home for Pat, Ronnie Lloyd, Ronnie (Sonny) Hilde and Arnold Rodvick. Not being trained in kindergarten work Mr. W. E. Hay, Stettler's County Superintendent, (who had been my Superintendent of schools in Medicine Hat) would drop in and give me some hints on what I should be doing. Jewel Tucker knocked on my door and insisted she join the group, even if she were the only girl!



Pushing the car up the coulee hill east of town in 1927, Jim and Olene Dempsey, Clarence and Kay Pullybank.



Ma Dempsey's Kindergarten Class in 1935. Sonny Hilde, Arnold Rudvic, Ronnie Lloyd, and Pat Dempsey.

When the depression struck in 1929, ambitious Astrid Hammarberg, now Mrs. Percy Rider, came to our door to see if she could work for her board and go to school to get her Grade XI and XII. She turned out to be such a wonder, we suggested she go into the University of Edmonton Hospital and train for a nurse. This she did. Now many years later we owe her a debt we can never repay, for she and Percy and their family receive our Pat with open arms, providing him with the country life he loves and adores, and give him the freedom to do whatever he likes on their farm.

Our friend Margaret Lawson also lived with us in the big house, teaching in town and going home to the ranch every weekend. What a friendship this has been.

As I've been sitting here, I've been overcome with sorrow that Jim isn't here to write his business story. He would have many things to tell. All I can say is that he did more of a conveyancing business than litigation. With his mild, dignified, quiet disposition, many near lawsuits turned into peaceful settlements by his appealing disposition. He was indeed a kindly man, as those of you who knew him will attest, I'm sure.

Jim worked so hard to help win the war in his position as adjutant, that his health failed, and we were advised to move to the coast. There in Victoria we met up with the Pattersons, Tommy and Ruby, and had all our Christmas and New Year's dinners together. The Porters retired to Victoria, too. What gay times we had together. Ex-Donalda Principal Earle and Amy Hoover came to Victoria too as did Kathleen Pulleyblank and Mrs. Grice. Ursa Ullman (Mrs. Syd Slack) and husband lived two doors from us, and in the winter Ursa, Ruby Patterson, Maude Webster of Red Willow and I had amusing games of Scrabble weekly at each other's homes.

With Jim's failing health, he took the position of accountant with the Victoria School Board, sold his law library to the Court House in Comox and was quite contented to remain in this job till retirement in 1960. He died the following year in November of 1961 from leukemia, but we had seventeen years granted to us at that lovely sea level.

As for Pat, he was so unhappy at the Coast he came back to Alberta when he was seventeen, and works as Warehouse Foreman for Continental Petroleum and Rubber Company in Calgary. We had acquired Pat's chum, John Peatman, age 12, while Jim was in the Air Force, and he stayed with us until he was married. John was in the Candian Navy 5 years, serving in the Korean War on the Athabaskan, and now is in Burnaby, B.C.

As for me, I lived alone in Victoria for 9 years, then when I was 75, I moved to Calgary and bought a house where Pat and I comfort each other. Now I am 83 with failing eyesight, and all the other joys(!) of older age but so happy to think of how our lives have been enriched by all the friends we have known, and those happy years in Donalda.

Olene Mary Dempsey

Ekholm Story

by Erna Ekholm

Emil came to Garden Plain with his parents and uncles from Sherwood, North Dakota, in 1910. His dad passed away on December 21, 1914. Emil was born on January 23, 1905 in Sherwood, North Dakota. He started to farm in 1927.

I was born in Hanna, Alberta on September 18, 1912. Emil and I were married November 1, 1933. In 1937 we moved to Donalda from Garden Plain area, after three years of crop losses through grasshoppers. We had our belongings trucked up by one of our neighbors; he took back a load of oats from here each trip. We had three loads of household goods, 5 milk cows and calves, chickens and horse machinery.

Brother Andrew (Pete) Eckholm drove up the horses we used to farm with. We rented land from John Kahl. Our neighbors were Wesley Clement, Jerry Fitzpatrick, John Thibeaus and Sam Strahan.

In 1945 we rented and moved to the Oscar Olson farm, we also rented Elmer Erickson's land and farmed it. We raised chickens, turkeys, pigs, milked cows for our own use and sold what we did not use. We raised grain, feed and hay for our stock.

We were able to buy our first second hand car and a brand new John Deere tractor to farm with. Our son Donald (Don) was born at Castor Hospital on December 19, 1937. Don took his schooling at Donalda and also Sunday School. Two of Don's teachers were Margaret Lawson and Milton Heater who also reside at Donalda and are retired from teaching. These two teachers also taught Don's daughters Marilyn and Debbie.

Cort Damberger drove the school van at that time, by horses and later by car.

In 1952 we bought Marie Jones's farm in the Up to Date school district. We moved in the spring of 1953. We tore down all the buildings and rebuilt them down the road one half mile. In 1954 we got power and telephone. Don bought the Brewster farm and tried his hand at farming in 1956, but luck was not his or ours. We got hailed out that year, so for the fourth time had to buy feed and seed grain for the next spring to get started again.

Don went to work for the C.N.R. for a while,

after being hailed out. Don married Ethel Montgomery of Edberg in September, 1958. He left the C.N. in 1959 to work for Bob Holladay at John Deere Implements, besides farming. In 1963, Don, Ethel, and girls moved to Red Deer where Don worked as a partsman for Barton Farm Equipment until 1966. They bought the farm and moved back home. We retired to the village of Donalda in the spring of 1966. We started to build our home here, had it completed and moved into it in September of 1967, where we have resided and enjoyed our retirement since.

Erna and Emil are members of the Senior Citizens Club and Erna is active in the U.C.W. They have always been active members and helpers at the Community Hall as well as helpers in preparation and at Klondike Nites. Erna was also an active member with the Women's Institute and Rebeccas, as long as these organizations existed in this area.

Erna and Emil enjoy their yard and garden very much, as well as their neighbors and old friends, and are always ready for a visit.

In 1975, Donald and Ethel sold their farm to Mr. Crawford, held an auction sale and moved to Donalda where they bought Hazel and Sherman Jones' home, greenhouse and lots. Don went to work again for the C.N.R., and Ethel went to work at Thirsk's in Stettler, where she is the cook at their Snack Bar and Coffee Shop. They have four daughters. Marilyn is employed at Johnson and Connor Insurance in Stettler. Debbie is employed at the Provincial Court House in Edmonton. Brenda and Sharlene are at home.

Ethel was one of the Brownie leaders while her girls attended. The girls have all taken part in Klondike Nights. They enjoy hobbies, crafts and other activities.

Ekholm and Anderson Story

by Emil Ekholm

Hanna Ekholm — my mother, her brother Frank Anderson and my brother Andrew (Pete) as he was known — came to Donalda from the Garden Plains area the spring of 1938. Roy and Ed Heisz moved their belongings by truck.

They rented and farmed Mrs. Olson's property which is now farmed by Ove Persson. In 1949 they retired and moved to the village of Donalda.

Otto Anderson — another of my mother's brothers — came to live with them. He came to this area in 1935, previously doing carpenter work. He passed away in April of 1959.

Mother was such an active member of Sharon Lutheran Aid and Church, and she kept very busy knitting and crocheting.

Andrew kept busy hauling coal and grain for

others and later went to work for Violet Jones on her farm.

In 1960 mother and Frank had a sale and sold their home to Ronnie Korschuh. Mother went to live at Heart Haven Home in Stettler. She passed away in July of 1968.

Frank went to make his home with my sister and her husband, Ruth and Walter Rochan west of Donalda. He passed away December 31, 1963.

Andrew (Pete) passed away February 12, 1976.

Fred Erickson Story

by Evelyn

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Erickson and their family of three, Selma, Evelyn and Clarence arrived in Donalda in June of 1916, with all their household effects piled in a hayrack.

As I remember, we had only two teams of horses — one team pulling the hayrack and the other pulling the wagon with machinery and some things hooked behind (which wasn't much).

Mother had beds fixed on top of the household effects in the rack. The stock was herded along side with Clarence as a boy helping to keep them in line.

I remember stopping to rest the animals before attempting the Gwynne Hill — it seemed huge, mountainous almost!

We were coming from Millet where Mother's family, the Skjels (anglicized Shale) lived. Daddy's



Mrs. Mollie Stolee, Mrs. Mabel Anderson, Mrs. Archie Wotherspoon (with baby), and Mrs. Fred Erickson.

family had originally settled in Crooked Lake, but had moved on south of Big Valley, and I'm not certain how they happened to acquire the farm at Donalda, which Daddy bought from them.

Our first home was a log house, about in the middle of the quarter (just to the West of the Village of Donalda). They later bought the Martin place just North of this quarter and moved there.

The neighbors remember Mrs. Erickson as a very busy, hard working woman, both at home and in Donalda in the different organizations and clubs. She contributed much to the Women's Institute and Cemetery Club etc.

She was always ready to help a neighbor who was ill or in need. After Mrs. Chapman, a neighbor passed away, she kept and cared for her small daughter Rose Mary for several years.

Selma, the eldest daughter took her R.N. and nursed in Ponoka at the Mental Hospital, and when World War II broke out she went overseas to serve. Here she met and married a Canadian, returning to Ontario when the war was over. She still resides in Ontario.

Evelyn took up teaching, later married, moved to Brantford, Ontario and has a daughter who is also married.

Clarence chose teaching as his profession too, and taught in Donalda for years. He married Jane Oberg from Forestburg. To this union two sons were born (Craig and Bobby). Craig, the older boy followed his father's profession and also became a teacher and is now teaching in Olds, Alberta. Craig is married, and has a family.

Bobby is also married and lives in Victoria.

Elmer was born after his parents moved to this area and as a small boy of about seven or eight years, sold enough "Gold Medal" seeds to win a violin. Mrs. Dempsey in Donalda gave him lessons on his new instrument. Evelyn also took some violin lessons from her, and recalls what an ordeal the squeak was and commends Mrs. Dempsey for being so noble, as she gave no indication of how horrible it must have been.

Elmer's musical talents developed and he played in a local orchestra for years. He finished his schooling in Donalda and helped his father on the farm.

Mr. Erickson's health being poorly for years gradually failed and he passed away.

Clarence quit teaching and he and Jane moved to Edberg, Alberta, where they ran a Cold Storage Locker Plant and store. The business grew and Elmer came to work with his brother, but after a few years progress changed the way of life, and farmers as well as other folks in town, bought deep freezers to have



Mr. Ole Anderson, Mrs. Anderson, ?, Mrs. Erickson, and Mr. Fred Erickson.

in their homes so the locker plant wasn't needed or used as much any more. So Clarence went back to teaching again.

Elmer met Islay and was married while in Edberg, also became a grain elevator agent. In 1959 he took his wife and two daughters and went to Nobleford where he managed the Nobleford Machinery Manufacturing plant. Islay, now a widow still lives at Nobleford; her daughters are married and live elsewhere.

Elmer and Islay had just returned from a trip to Europe, and Clarence and Jane met them at the plane. Clarence and Elmer were fatally injured in an accident on their way home. Jane lives on in Edberg, spending some of her time visiting with her sons and families at Olds and Victoria.

Lyle Fitzpatrick

I was born in 1915 to Jerry and Minnie Fitzpatrick, on a farm three miles south of Donalda.

I was the youngest of four children. My sisters are Verlie, Mrs. Ernie Steinhoff of Bashaw; Lola, Mrs. Robert Proudly of Edmonton, and my brother Ray of Camrose.

I went to school in Donalda, in a horse drawn van. In high school I played basket ball and we were the Central and Northern Champions for two years. In 1930 at the age of fifteen, I started pitching ball for the men's baseball team. I played ball until 1946. I also played with Bashaw a lot the last few years. In 1939 and 1940 Donalda had one of the best teams around. We won many ball tournaments.

In 1939 I married Edie Anderson, daughter of Mabel and Ole Anderson of Donalda. We had two girls, Sandra and Judy. Sandra married Donald Pochylko of Erskine. They have two boys, Danny and Duane. They own a ranch named San Dan. Judy is married to Jack Dinsmore of Owen Sound, Ontar-

io. He was trucking for Bob Holladay, until he took over the business from him. They have two girls, Teresa and Kimmy and one boy Patrick Lyle. They live in Donalda.

In 1942 I started buying grain for the Searle Grain Company. I bought grain for thirty-six years, and retired at that time because of poor health. Our home is in Donalda and we still live here.

Ray Fitzpatrick

Ray Fitzpatrick, son of Jerry and Minnie Fitzpatrick, grew up and farmed with his dad on the original homestead three miles south of Donalda. In 1941 Ray married Mary Heater, daughter of Jacob and Sigrid Heater. Ray and Mary took over the Fitzpatrick farm in 1944. This was a mixed farming operation, but the main source of income was cattle, so Ray's greatest concern was that there would be plenty of feed for the winter. Fall was an exciting time of the year when harvesting with a threshing machine took a large crew of men. Cooking was a pleasure, as the men were hungry, and enjoyed eating and visiting over their meals. In the early 1950's Ray started using the combine to harvest.

During those early years, before there were deep-freezers, the preserving of food was essential to feed the many extra people. This preserving was done by placing the food in jars and processing it for a lengthy time in water on the cookstove.

One of the greatest milestones in farm living was when electricity and the coal stoker were installed.

In 1939-40 Ray felt he had it made as far as comfort went — that was when he changed from horses to rubber tired tractors for farming. He remembers that his dad tried to convince him that a rubber tired tractor would not pull anything.

In 1963 Ray and Mary built a new house in Donalda, but Ray continued to farm with hired help living on the home place.

In the fall of 1967, their daughter Sharon and husband Roger moved to Donalda to farm with Ray. At this time they tore down the old house and built a new one on the same site. Also, that same fall Mary became Secretary-Treasurer for the Village of Donalda and found that she enjoyed meeting and helping the public.

Ray and Roger farmed together until 1972 when the farm was sold to Ove Persson. Roger moved to a farm south of Daysland and Ray retired from farming.

Over the years Ray and Mary enjoyed being involved with church and community affairs. In 1976 they sold their house, Mary quit her job and they are presently living in Camrose.

The Lord blessed this couple with three daughters.

Gail — who married Ross Halseth, and they have three children. They are presently living in Vermilion. Ross is Public Relations Representative for Alberta Wheat Pool and Gail is a secretary at Lakeland College. Sharon — of Camrose is married to Roger Meyer. Since Roger had the misfortune of breaking his neck, he is confined to the wheelchair, enjoying life at home with his family. They have two children of their own and over the years have cared for several foster children. Rhonda — of Stony Plain is married to Ken Lamden, who is a Civil Engineering Technologist. They have one child. Their main interest is singing sacred music with another couple, calling themselves the "Gospel Folk".

In reminiscing Ray saw the price of cows go from \$10.00 to \$1000.00 per head. In 1944, Ray paid \$20.00 per acre for a half section. In 1973, he sold this same land for \$75.00 per acre. Now, in 1979 land sells for \$300.00-\$400.00 per acre.

When horses were the way of life, Ray recalls with humour one of the many run-a-ways that was experienced by the Fitzpatrick men. Lyle had gone to Donalda for lumber with the team and wagon. To get lumber, you had to drive in one gate, make a half circle and come out the other. Lyle had left the team standing at the entrance by the office when he heard the team start up. He looked out the door, but the team was gone rushing to the gate where they came out, he got there in time, but they wouldn't stop. Lyle grabbed the back of the wagon, but was thrown into the ditch as the team made the turn out of the yard. There happened to be a car coming down the street and by this time the horses were picking up speed. The tongue of the wagon had fallen down, it went under the car and one horse on each side. At this time they were going full speed. They pushed the car past the Central Garage, through the fence and out onto the railroad track. By this time they had broken loose and each horse went its own way. The person in the car thought the end of the world had come. This was one run-a-way that Ray was not a participant but an onlooker and he says it was one of the funniest things he ever saw, recalling the horse and wagon days.

One of the most frustrating run-a-ways Ray experienced was one time when he left a team standing on the street in Donalda. He was watching them and when they started up he ran to catch them but could never run fast enough to reach the back of the sleigh box. He was always just three or four feet from catching the back of the box and finally had to give up and let the team go on its own merry way.

Horses continued to be a necessity and were appreciated. One of the many reasons was that, when the truck wouldn't start in the cold of winter, Mary

would steer the truck while Ray drove the team to pull the vehicle until the motor started.

Horses made life very interesting. Ray continued breaking horses to ride until one bucked him off once too often and Ray decided he had had enough of that abuse.

As Ray and Mary look back, the best years they spent farming were without a doubt the best years of their life.

The Dean Franklin Story

After seventeen years of living in eleven communities from Yellowknife, North West Territories to Calgary, working in oil exploration, transportation and farm service, the family purchased a lot and moved their mobile home to Donalda, Alberta, in the fall of 1977. Dean Franklin is the eldest son of Herb and Violet Franklin of Enilda, Alberta. His wife Christine (Tina) is the eldest daughter of Dan and Maisie Rogucki of Derwent, Alberta.

Dean and his family are operating a small photography service. He has captured and preserved much of the beauty of Donalda and the Battle River Country. He has travelled extensively, and has taken photographs from the Arctic to South America. Dean and Tina find it great to have a permanent home in Donalda community, to raise their family of five children; Herbert seventeen; Irene, sixteen; Marilyn, thirteen; Yvonne, twelve and Clifford, nine.

Froebel Family

Casper and Georgina Froebel moved to Donalda on June 12th, 1966. The Alberta Wheat Pool were just constructing their new elevator at the time and Casper was to be the new elevator agent. Their daughter Annette was born in August of that year and was followed by Sandra in February of 1969.

In October of 1976 Georgina became Secretary-Treasurer for the Village of Donalda after the retirement of Mary Fitzpatrick.

Jess R. Graham

Jess and Mary Graham were both born in the United States. They had three children, Arthur, Viola (who died at Donalda in 1912), and Luella, born at Donalda in 1913. The Grahams came to Donalda in 1911 from Stony Plain, where he had been a lumber merchant. Jess bought an interest in a hardware store in Donalda, owned by Mr. Foster. When Mr. Foster died the following year, Jess became the full owner of the business. He then brought his brother Charles in as a partner.

This store was a two story building and stood on

the south-west corner of main street, directly across the street from the general store owned by S. P. Lee. Vikse Bros. store was one block east and on the southeast corner of the same street, stood the hotel, run by Mr. Haviland.

Graham Bros. hardware had financial difficulties in 1915 and closed down the same year. It was probably purchased by Mr. Butler.

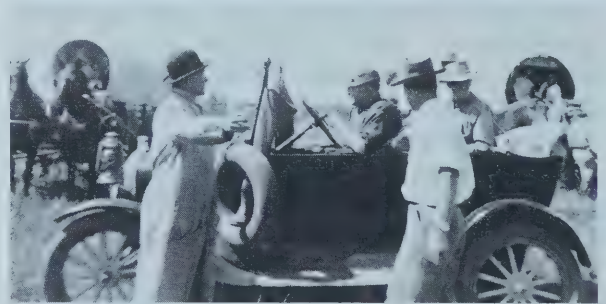
Jess Graham next managed the lumber yard in Donalda for approximately one year. He then became a station agent for the Canadian National Railway. Eventually he was moved to Bawlf, where he remained until his retirement in 1938. Jess Graham died December 31, 1949 and Mary Graham died November 14, 1971.

The Hjorths

Harold Hjorth came to the United States in the year 1905, where he worked for several years before moving to Alberta in 1910 to take a homestead. He found the automobile more interesting than farming, so soon he was operating a repair garage in the town of Markerville. There he and Laura were married.

In 1930 he moved to Donalda where he purchased one of the garages from Albert Hilde (at that time Donalda had several garages). His wife Laura, and children Eric and Monna had returned to Denmark for health reasons and joined him a few years later.

Harold rebuilt the old garage, became a Ford dealer, added a show room and enlarged the shop.



Donalda Parade — Harold Hjorth in his Model T.

Laura helped her husband in the garage and Eric started taking part in the operations. Eric also purchased the old Vikse Store where he started a grocery business with Allan Steinhoff as a partner. Eric and Allan operated the store for several years, Eric then bought Allan's share, and later sold the business to Gordon Knudtson.

Eric rejoined his dad and operated the garage as a partnership, later he purchased the business.

Monna married Herb Bartz. They have a daughter Nona, and live in Edmonton.

Harold died in 1967, still working and helping out in the garage. He enjoyed big game hunting and liked to visit with hunters around Donalda.

Eric is still operating the same business. He married Leona Gustavson from Edberg in 1956, who at the time was employed at the Donalda Post Office. Eric and Leona built their home in Donalda. They have two daughters; Rhonda and Sheila.

Over the years in Donalda, Eric has taken part in every organization, club and lodge and is at present Mayor of Donalda.

George and Elizabeth (Smith) Howlett

I came to Donalda on July 9th, 1965, from Bruhin, Ontario and kept house for George Howlett, who lived on the corner of Foster Street and Railway Avenue, until September 18, 1967 when I returned to Orillia, Ontario.

During George's holidays in 1968, he came to Orillia where we were married on July 13th, 1968, in St. Pauls United Church. We returned to Donalda where we have resided since.

I have attended Donalda United Church and have been a member of the U.C.W. all the time I've been here. I was vice-president, and after our president, Mrs. Stewart and her husband, the Bank Manager moved away I filled in as president until the end of the year.

I became the treasurer in December 1969 and have held that office until the present time, September 1979.

In 1973 the Donalda Coulee Friendship Club (Senior Citizens) was organized in April and I have been a member since 1975, Treasurer for the Club in 1976 and 77, and Secretary for 1978 and 79.

We have sold our house and are moving to Orillia, Ontario as of October 1, 1979.

My years in Donalda have been pleasant, meeting many people and have a number of good friends and hope my time spent in the Village and Community has been an asset, contributing to its betterment in a small way.

George worked on the Section for the C.N.R. all the time he lived here.

Charley Gray Story

Mr. and Mrs. Charley Gray and their family of seven children came to Donalda area in 1918 from Ohaton, where Charley had homesteaded in 1908.

He managed the creamery at Ohaton before coming to Donalda, and was one of the partners in the Rosenroll coal mine at Ohaton.

They lived on the Sophia Nordvie homestead just

north of Donalda, across the valley on the S.E. quarter of Section 18.

Charley worked at the cream station in Donalda where cream was brought in by farmers, graded and tested by a hand whirled mechanism that held little



The Gray Family. Front row: Esther, Ruth. Middle row: Mr. and Mrs. Charley Gray. Back row: Ralph, Gust, Harold, Verna, Alphon, Herb.

jars of cream samples. The cans were then picked up by the dray wagon or sleigh and taken to the C.N. depot and shipped by rail to Edmonton, where it was made into butter.

Mr. Gray also managed a shoe repair shop at the same time, until he started travelling throughout Alberta as an Inspector of creameries.

Their children attended school in Donalda, and a younger daughter Ruth recalls how they traveled to and from school in this horse drawn carriage. They entered from the back — up some steps through the door, and sat on seats along the sides. In the winter, runners were put under it and there were metal containers on the floor with hot bricks in them to warm cold feet. Some of us were just beginning school. My younger brother Harold was a baby when we left in 1922.

Ruth also remembers a time when an enraged bull was loose in Donalda. Everyone ran up the long steps at the back of the hotel for safety.

Ruth recalls how after her father started travelling as a Creamery Inspector — being away much of the time, how anxious we all were for his return home, as he'd always bring us something from the "outside world", such as fresh fruit. Once at Christmas time

he brought a box of apples “how great!” — and another time a basket of cherries — “what a treat!”

Seems strange how they now have their own home grown apples and other fruits. All we knew of when we were there was the wild berries.

Ralph recalls when he was in the third grade that his teacher was Theresa Lustad, and remembers a Mr. Stenlund as a van driver. His brother Gus and Stub Solomonson were buddies. He also remembers the great excitement on meeting their father at the train on his return home. Once he had a box and upon reaching home they opened it. There was an Edison Phonograph — such an enjoyment! — not only for themselves as their neighbors enjoyed it too. The Hilde children often came to listen to it with them. It was sold on their auction sale when they left, and Ole Stanvik bought it for his family to enjoy.

After the auction sale, we left by train for Custer, Washington where we were neighbors and friends with Tom Loney's. The Dan Rakes had just left here to go to Alberta and we moved into the home they moved away from.

Mr. and Mrs. Charley Gray passed away near the end of World War II.

Ralph has fond memories of his home and childhood near Donalda, of roaming in the Coulees and of swimming in the creek.

In 1977 he brought his grandson on holidays to show him where he'd lived, romped and played as a child. He also visited at Camrose.

His mother's people, the Nybacks were from Camrose, and not too long after that last visit his cousin passed on. Time passes on and so do our loved ones. Memories and friendships are such a privilege. Ralph says he had much enjoyment from the book “Fifty Years on the Coulee Rim” — and is very much looking forward to getting “Donalda's Roots and Branches”. Another privilege of keeping in contact!

Esther, the oldest — born 1903 lives in Auburn, Washington. Alfon was born in 1905 (now deceased). Herb — born in 1907 (now deceased). Gust — born in 1910, lives in Seattle, Washington. Ralph — born in 1912, resides in Cashmere, Washington. He has just sold his ranch, except for forty acres of the wooded area which he kept for elk hunting and a place on which to retire. Ruth — born 1914, lives near Seattle, Washington. Verna — was born in 1912 (now deceased). Harold — born 1921 is in Reno, Nevada.

Greenaway

Stan Greenaway moved to Donalda in 1925 with his wife Hattie and sons Ted and Archie. Ted was

five years old and Archie was just a baby. They made the move from Turtleford, Saskatchewan to Donalda because they found the kind of a garage here that they were looking for. They liked Donalda and its people and thought they were set for life here, but it was not to be. Five years later their garage burned down. They moved to Camrose then and remained there until after the Second World War.

Archie was Hospital Chaplain in Saskatoon for 15 years, then had churches in Regina and Vancouver. Archie passed away in 1979.

Ted owned a paving business in Saskatoon. He married Dr. Neville's daughter Ruth of Camrose and had a family of seven children.

Stan is now in a nursing home in White Rock, British Columbia. His wife Hattie is deceased. Stan has fond memories of their few years in Donalda when their sons were growing up. Here they were among real friends, many of which have now passed on.

Ed Grice

Ed and Della Grice came to the Village of Donalda in 1913. Ed opened a hardware store and also sold gas from pumps in front of his store, and had bulk gas.

One day a number of men were in the store looking at a large anvil that was sitting there. Ed, not



Ed and Della Grice.

believing any man could carry it far, said he'd give it to the man who could carry it out of the store. Clyde Heater was the only one able to do it, and so got himself a good anvil for free.

Della was active in Ladies' Aid and Women's Institute.

Della loved picking saskatoons. She could not drive, so had to get Ed to take her. Ed got tired of doing this, so one day when he'd taken Della to the coulee to pick saskatoons, he came across a nest of snakes. Knowing Della hated them, he lured her over by saying the berries were good where he was. Della came over, saw the snakes, gave a scream, dropped her berries and ran. Ed said he never had to take her berry picking again.

Della died in 1936. About 1946 Ed sold his home and store to Winston Clement and moved to Victoria. Ed died in the 1950's in Victoria.

The Griffin Story

by Pauline Griffin

Charles R. Griffin (Rolly) was born in London, Ontario in 1899. He came with his parents to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan in 1905 and was educated there. At the age of nineteen, his parents sent him to Alix, Alberta to run a farm they had purchased in 1918. He found this quite a challenge for a city boy. He stayed on the farm for ten years. He played hockey and baseball with Alix teams and played hockey with Stettler one season.

Rolly started his elevator career as second man for Gillespie Grain Company, in Bashaw. In 1928 he went as an agent to a siding called Leahurst, six miles north east of Stettler. In 1929 he met me, Pauline Lucas.

I, Pauline Lucas was born in Iowa and came to Alberta with my folks in 1913 to Donalda. My dad worked at different farms until they moved to the Westwood district, twelve miles east of Red Willow and twelve miles north of Gadsby. I attended school at Westwood until my father passed away in February 1920. With my mother, two sisters and brother, we moved to Red Willow where I got the rest of my education.

We were married in 1929, and lived in Leahurst in two rooms off the elevator office for five years. In 1930, our son Lloyd R. was born, one of the first babies born in the new hospital in Stettler. Hard times caused the closure of the elevator, so Rolly, I and small son moved to Edmonton where Rolly worked nights for Gillespie Grain in the Feed Department until he was laid off. We spent some time in Winnipeg with Rolly's folks then back in Leahurst for a few months.

In 1931 our daughter Betty D. was born.

The Leahurst elevator closed in September 1932, so Rolly got a job with Alberta Wheat Pool and we moved to Walts Landing, ten miles west of Hanna.

Our third child, a son Paul C. was born at home in 1933.

We lived at Walts Landing until 1937, when we were transferred to Scollard where we lived for ten years. The school at Scollard was three quarters of a mile away and the children had to walk. Lloyd had to go to Stettler to get his grade nine so he stayed with my mother in Red Willow.

We were transferred to Donalda in 1947. Lloyd and Paul finished school in Donalda. Betty worked for Ruby and Karen Anderson in the Blue Mill Cafe for awhile. She eventually went east to work in a shirt factory in Guelph, Ontario where she met her husband Donald Behan, whom she married in May 1968. Don works for the city of Guelph. They have a daughter Corinne Delores born in 1969.

Lloyd worked after school for Bob Wotherspoon and Casey Jones delivering gas. Later he worked on the Canadian National Railway with Mr. Coffman at Donalda, then in Three Hills, Delia, Lloydminster and Wagner. He then worked as meteorologist at Rocky Mountain House, White Horse, Yukon and Grande Prairie where he met and married Kay Romchuck in June 1957. They have since lived in Yellowknife, North-West Territories, Toronto, Ontario and now reside in Hay River, North-West Territories. They have four children; Debbie is a dental receptionist, Brent works for an auto company, Warren is a chef and Sharon is still at school. All are in Hay River.

Paul first worked for Singer Gravel in Ponoka, then in Calgary with Motor Car Supply. He started with Calgary Transit in 1955. Paul married Betty Golds of Calgary in 1956. They have four children; Paul Allen, Holly Lynn, Tracy Charles and Darcy Louis. All the children work part time in Calgary City library.

Of our lives in Donalda, there were seventeen years of pleasure and enjoyment, also some trying times in 1962 when Rolly was so ill. Rolly retired in 1964 and we moved to Calgary where we celebrated our Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary in June 1979.

The Gulkas

We, Myron and Brenda Gulka, with our family of three girls, Cathy, Debbie and Jodi came from Calgary to Donalda in January of 1978, when we purchased the building and business from Jackie and Jim Fischbach, the Lucky Dollar Store.

Hardly getting settled before the Donalda Reun-

ion came into being, has given us a very busy time since we arrived here. The girls are all enjoying their school and all activities that go with it, besides helping out at home and in the store.

The B. C. Johnson Family

The B. C. Johnson Family were very “Newcomers” in Donalda’s history. They came in 1927 when the Alberta Wheat Pool decided to build an elevator of their own in the village, arriving to find construction barely started.

Carl Johnson had been a grain buyer in the Oyen district for several years, and coming from the dry prairie belt of Alberta to the pretty treed country of Donalda with its attractive coulee nearby was a very welcome change.

The family consisted of two boys Wilbur and Ray and three girls Carline, Ella and Helen. Ella and Helen completed their High School in Donalda and went on to Camrose for their teachers training. Ella left the district to teach and Helen taught at Science Mound for one year before moving on. Wilbur or “Swede” as he was known, worked in the district and Ray finished most of his schooling in Donalda. Ray and Philip Stolee as young boys were noted for their “shoot-outs” in the coulee which was a wonderful place to play “cowboys and Indians” Carline, who was already teaching when the family moved to Donalda, married in southern Alberta. When Carline and her husband Percy Jones visited Donalda, they liked the village so well that Percy took a job in the Donalda Creamery and later he became manager, a position he held until he retired to live on in Donalda. Here at Donalda they raised their family of four sons Maldwyn, who presently lives at Calgary, Verne, now of Edmonton and twin sons Allan and Arnold. Allan and his family live at Medicine Hat and Arnold lives in Donalda, an employee at the Donalda Co-op Creamery for many years. One of the things best remembered by the Johnson family was that Mrs. Johnson was quite a mover. In the seven or eight years they lived in Donalda, they moved into four different houses! To show how small the world is: When Helen’s husband George Deadmarsh retired, they went to White Rock to live in a Mobile Home Court. In the course of getting acquainted, who should they find living in this same court but Mr. and Mrs. John Kahl’s daughter Alma McGarvie and Henry Paege’s twin sister Alice Murray.

Alan and Sylvia (Norman) Jones

Alan and I were both born and raised at Donalda. Alan is a twin, son of Percy and Caroline Jones. I am the youngest child of Gust and Marta Norman’s fami-

ly, and the youngest grandchild of Ole and Maria Norman.

We spent all our school days there and also the first years of our marriage. Alan worked for several years at Donalda Co-op Creamery as a cream grader and butter-maker. While working there, he also acquired a steam ticket to enable him to legally operate the little boiler, and this was the start of what would eventually be his life’s calling. Our three children were all born at Donalda, so it was also their first home.



Daniel, Alan, Laurel Kevin and Sylvia Jones.

In 1966, we decided to spread our wings and moved first to Edmonton, then to Calgary. In 1974, we moved again, and now make our home in Medicine Hat. Our search for greener pastures has led us to the most arid region of Alberta where things are seldom green. We have become accustomed to the wide open spaces, and have come to appreciate the unique beauty that our prairie region has to offer.

Since leaving Donalda, Alan has been employed in the petroleum industry and has furthered his education to the point where he now holds a First Class Steam Engineer’s certificate. He is presently employed by Alberta Gas Chemicals Ltd. in the position of Chief Engineer and Operations Supervisor.

In 1967, I started working for Alberta Government Telephones in Calgary. What started out as short-term employment to earn a few extra dollars for our new home had turned into a career for me. I am presently with AGT’s Engineering Department in Medicine Hat.

Our three children are almost all grown and have started to leave the nest. Laurel is now Mrs. Brendan Marshall and lives in Edmonton. She is a Medical Lab Technologist and is presently employed at a clinic in Edmonton. After high school graduation,

Daniel is continuing his education at S.A.I.T. in Calgary in the Electronic Engineering program. Our youngest, Kevin, is still at home with us and will soon be in high school. He is playing Provincial Hockey this year with the Medicine Hat Bantam "A" Elks.

Though we have been away from Donalda for some time, we will always feel that the Donalda area is our "home". We make frequent trips back to visit family and friends and always enjoy keeping in touch with the people and events in Donalda.

Sherman James Jones Family

Hazel Mae, eldest daughter of Ralph and Olga Smith was born on the homestead six miles north and four east of Donalda in 1911. She and her brothers and sister walked or rode horseback to Centennial school.

In 1929 she and Sherman Jones, a newcomer from North Dakota, United States of America in 1920, drove by car on the ungravelled muddy road to Lacombe where they were married by Reverend R. B. Layton. Crash of the stock market a few days later shocked the world. They tried farming the next two years but all they could raise was dust and stinkweed, so they gave it up and Sherman worked for farmers till he enlisted in 1940. He came home December 13, 1945 to find his wife, sixteen year old son Jim and thirteen year old daughter Lavonne living in Camrose. They bought Joe Johnson's house in Donalda for nine hundred dollars and moved back there. The house stood where Marcel Blouin's new house has just been completed. In 1946 they built "Veteran's Garage" but sold it in 1949. Sherman then began a twenty-two year career in roadbuilding for the County of Camrose (Municipal District at that time). Sherman Park near Ferintosh is named after him.

In 1952 Hazel took the Certified Nursing Aide course and nursed periodically in Stettler, Ponoka, Drumheller and lastly at Seton General in Jasper.

She was Secretary-Treasurer of the Village of Donalda six years following the death of O. M. Vikse, and owned and operated the Insurance office on Main Street two and half years selling out to Johnson Connor of Stettler in 1968. The building is now a dwelling. In 1964 the Jones' built the house now owned by Don Ekholm. In 1974 this house, grounds and garden was awarded top honours in Stettler Fair competitions.

Sherman Jones worked with Oscar Olson, the contractor, in the excavation for construction of the east part (original) of Donalda's present school. The

work was done entirely with horses and scrapers. Bill Pickering was also on the job.

After Sherman graduated to the use of heavy duty County machinery he, in co-operation with the County of Camrose, filled numerous pot-holes in the Village, levelled the ball diamond (present sports ground) and opened several as-yet-unused streets.

January 3, 1975 the Jones' moved to Jasper, Alberta where Sherman is working as a Guard for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Hazel does Matron duties.

They observed their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary September 2, 1979. Daughter Lavonne lives in Calgary and son Jim is Assistant Plant Chief at the Palisades Power Plant in Jasper National Park.

Chris Lausen Family History

Chris Lausen was born in Denmark and came to the Donalda, Meeting Creek area after serving in the German Army as a Butcher in World War I.

He did farm work when he first came, until he was employed by the Petersen Brothers of Meeting Creek, in the meat department of their store, for a time.

In 1927, his wife Helen and their young son Christen Peter came from Denmark, later coming to Donalda, where Mr. Lausen went into the butcher business. His shop was on the north side of main street in the west room (the parts department of Clement Hardware). He operated his butchershop here "The Palace Meat Market" until October of 1948, when he moved across the street into the new Co-op Locker Plant. He managed this with his meat and butcher business until his retirement, when he sold the business to Bill Sawers in June of 1966. Christen Peter Jr. assisted his father for some time while residing in Donalda.



Mr. C. P. Lausen, Mr. B. A. Vikse, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Patterson, Mrs. Dempsey, Mrs. Vikse and Mr. Dempsey in front.

Chris served on the Village Council for a number of years and was Mayor for twenty-five years. He and Mrs. Lausen were active in all Community Affairs.

Helen was well known for her hand made Cluny Lace. She made and donated lace for the Pulpit and Altar cloths for each of the Churches in Donalda which is still being used to adorn the furniture there. There are many residents that have doilies and



Helen Lausen with her Cluny Lace, Pillow and Bobbins 1952.

pieces of her handwork as cherished keepsakes. She made beautiful knitted and crocheted bedspreads; and was happy to teach the Cluny lace craft to any one that was interested.

Mr. and Mrs. Lausen celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary on February 1, 1970, and Mrs. Lausen passed away suddenly about two weeks later. Mr. Lausen passed away in 1975.

Christen Peter Jr. passed away in 1976 after a lingering illness. His family Wayne, Terry, Kenny, Patricia and Danny are all living at Fort Saskatchewan where their mother Yvonne also resides — Terry was recently married.

Donald and Beth Lawson

by Beth Lawson

Don and Beth were married in 1938 and lived in Meeting Creek where Don had a variety store. Later the same year we bought the Red and White Store, operating it until 1941 when we sold it to Ed. Flynn. We then moved to the farm 'Mardon Ranch' where Don had been raised, seven and one half miles north west of Donalda.

We had an extra house on the farm where the Meeting Creek Canadian Order of Foresters met monthly and their wives came along for a social evening at our house. This house was later sold to Mr. DeWitt, who moved it to Donalda to live in, later Mr. and Mrs. Bill Sheppard lived there followed by George and Myrtle Montgomery and then Norman and Lorna Dahl.

We moved to Sylvan Lake in 1946 where we operated a Cafe. In 1947 we moved to Donalda. We had planned to reside in Red Deer, but at that time living quarters were very hard to find. This was before the days of commuting from surrounding towns and villages.

We came to Donalda to visit Don's sister Margaret and heard of a suite to rent on the main floor of the Duke Apartments which also had room in the back for Don to do sign painting.

When Clark Duke closed his Saddle and Shoe Repair shop, Don opened his Sign Painting Shop there and I opened the Knitterbug Korner in part of it.

On the first of October, 1948 I became the Telephone Agent and Operator for the Alberta Government Telephones. As we had to have a building to house the Telephone Office, we bought the former Ed Grice Hardware and tinsmith shop. We also moved the Knitterbug Korner and Don made living quarters behind the store where we still live, but we are building a new home. This will be our first home in a residential section in our forty-one years of marriage, except for the first two months of marriage in 1938 in Meeting Creek.

Clark tore down the Duke apartments, moving to Stettler where he built a house with the lumber in 1949-50. Don then bought his lots and built a Sign Painting Shop which is now Eric Hjorth's building west of the Donalda Inn on Main Street.

May 1st, 1958 the Red and White Store was to be closed, so Donald and Bert Lebeck bought it. This was indeed a surprise to everyone in town and district, to find the store in new hands. It all happened so fast — over-night. In September, Gene Mykytiw bought Bert's share in the business.

In 1959 the telephones became automatic and there was no need for an operator, so I went to work in the Red and White Store too. When Gene's Dad

Walter bought the Cecil Hotel in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Don and I bought Gene's share and Gene joined his dad in the hotel business.

As the front of our building was empty (where the telephone office had been), we put my Miniature Coal Oil Lamp Collection in there while remodelling our residence. Many tourists wanted to come in to see the collection so we left them there and added more lamps and other antiques and collectables, hence the beginning of our Mini-Museum about 1963. There have been many articles written about this collection in newspapers, magazines and even in the Reader's Digest Book of Roads Across Canada. We had no idea when we started that this collection would create such an interest. About five hundred tourists sign the guest book annually.

Both of us were in hospital last winter and being senior citizens, we decided we should come to a decision on what to do about our collection, as we had collected it together. Most of our items came to this area with the early settlers. We both felt we would like it to stay in Donalda as it does bring many tourists to see our beautiful Donalda Coulee and our nice friendly village and community. Many local people also bring their visitors and friends to see it. We felt it would be wrong to break up this widely publicized Collection of Coal Oil Lamps, believed to be the largest in Canada.

We discussed this with the Secretary of the Battle River Tourist Association and she, with the association executive approached the Donalda Village Council. They agreed it was a good tourist attraction for the district. We donated the Lamp Collection plus items given to us, and other memorabilia (including Donalda Business Advertising items) to the Village of Donalda. The Village Council is now in the process of building a museum to house the collection.

We continued to operate the Red and White Store until we sold to Bill Sawers in 1967, who at this time had the butcher shop and lockers. He made the alley way joining the two businesses.

Once again to save the store from being closed in 1969, we went back into business, this time with the store, butcher shop and lockers. It was most difficult to find a good butcher and this was a problem until we ran into Archie Seufert. After building the business back up, we sold the store to Jim and Jackie Fischback and the butcher shop to Archie and Sylvia Seufert in 1970.

Don had traded his sign painting shop for the John Deere building (the former Ryan's Drug Store) where he set up a wood working shop and continued to do sign painting until his illness and loss of eyesight made it impossible for him to continue working. After the hotel burned down there was no place

for tourists to get a cup of coffee in town. We opened a Flea Market in the front of Don's shop on week-end during the summer for two years. It was a great gathering place and we met many interesting people.

Donald was a great stage entertainer and magician and was called upon for many local shows, Christmas programs, etc. including the many years he was the 'Professor' at Klondike Nites, until the night he had a heart attack on stage during 'The Shooting of Dan McGrew'. Don played the part of the Stranger from the Creek until that time. After retirement from the store he was called upon many times to put on a magic show in surrounding towns.

We are now fully retired but have no wish to leave this beautiful country around Donalda and our many friends.

Donald has had a diverse and interesting life. He has been a merchant (Red and White and Butcher Shop); a sign painter; a paper hanger and painter; a cabinet maker; a school bus driver; a telephone operator; started a museum: was Donalda's representative on the Battle River Tourist Association for years; introduced the Canadian Order of Foresters Lodge to Donalda; operated Carnival Games (most of which he made himself) at sports days and other events; been a Clown in parades; a Klondiker; a Magician for events in Town and District; and many out of town engagements; an artist (picture hanging in the hall of Gold Digging); a Sculptor, head of Don Wilson (who was working with an elevator crew out of Stettler).

Items above relate to Donalda and District, but in his life span he has also been a merchant in Meeting Creek; a Cafe Owner and Manager in Sylvan Lake, Alberta; been a sailor on an Oil tanker going through the Panama Canal; he travelled with a show troupe, doing Rope Spinning, he was billed as "Wildon the Rope Spinner". (Hilliard Beyerstein of Meeting Creek, who once worked in the Donalda Bank, was also a member of the same troupe). Don was also a Model Builder, (Steven's first locomotive, and Coronation Coach, in the Museum).

It is likely that we have missed some of the things he has done, but what a feat for one man. His wife Beth says "There is nothing Don can't do, but cook a meal."

Don was always ready and willing to participate in his community. He is now seventy-six years old, but indeed did his share for the community while he was able and enjoyed every bit of it.

Miss Margaret Lawson

In 1913 Margaret Lawson and her brother Donald came to Alberta from Copper Cliff, Ontario with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Lawson. The two eldest Lawson boys preceeded them the year before,

1912, to start farming the land their father and purchased out west. This farm was between Donalda and Meeting Creek. It was about eight and a half miles north west of Donalda and four and a half miles south of Meeting Creek. The farm was given the name "Mardon Ranch", "Mar" for Margaret and "don" for Donald. Another brother, Jock, who was attending university in the East, joined the family later, as did Mrs. Lawson's sister, "Auntie Osborne."

Mr. and Mrs. Lawson, Margaret and Donald came out by Canadian Pacific Railway to Lacombe and had a taxi take them to Bar Harbour on Buffalo Lake. Here they were met by Andrew Anderson, with a team and democrat. It was a long and tedious trip to the farm in pouring rain. Needless to say everyone was soaked when at last they arrived. What a welcome to Sunny Alberta!

At this time Mr. John Pelter had herds of cattle roaming all over the place. There were no fences or road allowances yet, and sometimes a big steer would be seen staring in the window at the folks inside.

One day the boys came in from haying and told of a wonderful raspberry patch they had discovered. Next morning Mrs. Lawson and Margaret set off with a couple of red lard pails to look for the berry patch. Coming over a hill they encountered six or seven head of Mr. Pelter's cattle. The curious steers began to walk towards them; Margaret and her mother walked faster. The steers walked faster, too. The would be berry pickers began to run; so did the steers. Though Margaret was but nine years old, she whipped her straw hat off and waving it furiously at the cattle, called out, "You run Mother. I'll stop them." Just then a team and democrat appeared on the scene. One of the boys was returning from town and the berry pickers were rescued.

The first Christmas on the farm was a memorable one for Margaret. Shortly after the family's arrival in the west, brother Earnest had given Donald a little Buckskin pony to be his own. Christmas morning there was an envelope on the Christmas tree for Margaret with Christmas greetings and a note from Lawrence. The note read, "You will find your Christmas present in the barn beside Buck." It was the other half of the little team of Buck and Tootsie. Now they were Margaret and Donald's saddle ponies as well.

There was no school near the farm. The closest was Buena Vista, five and a half miles away. So Margaret and Donald had a prolonged vacation until the Hazel Grove school was built. Then attending a rural school was a new experience and a happy one too, for many new and true friends were found there.

Margaret attended high school in Edmonton, then went to Camrose Normal School in 1923-24 and became a teacher. Her first teaching position was at Czar, in Custer rural school. Here she boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Victor Lindgren and family. Mrs. Lindgren was a sister of Ole Anderson, a former Donalda Hardware merchant. Hazel Grove (Margaret's home school) was where she taught next. Then came Meeting Creek, a one-room school in the hamlet of Meeting Creek. Up-to-Date followed, then back to Hazel Grove, making eleven and a half years of rural school teaching.

In 1937 Donalda Consolidated school accepted Miss Lawson as primary teacher with grades one to four. When Donalda and district became part of the County of Stettler in 1955 and pupils from all the rural school in the area were bussed into town, Grade One became a class of its own with Miss Lawson its teacher until her retirement in 1968.

During her thirty-one years of teaching in Donalda, Margaret Lawson taught a number of children whose parents had been former pupils of hers. Indeed, in her last teaching year, one of the beginning pupils was a third generation pupil in one family that she had taught previously.

When Margaret first began teaching in Donalda she lived with Mr. and Mrs. Jim Dempsey and Pat, until Mr. Dempsey rejoined the armed service at the outbreak of World War II, and the family moved to Edmonton. At Mrs. Dempsey's suggestion, Margaret then brought her Mother and Auntie Osborne in to live with her in the Dempsey house. When the Dempsey's returned and sold their house, Margaret, her mother and aunt, moved into the McIntyre house, where Walter Halseth's now live. Mrs. Lawson passed away in 1946 and Auntie Osborne in 1948. Margaret still resides in Donalda in Mr. and Mrs. Earl Porter's former house at the west end of Main Street.

The MacLean Story

by Esta MacLean

John and Esta MacLean (known as the two Macs) came to Donalda on August 28, 1950. John was hired to be principal of the then consolidated school there.

These are some of the events that took place during the years we lived there.

This was the year The Friendship Train was roaming around this Province and it arrived in Donalda on September 26. The guests from the train were entertained in the curling rink with coffee and lunch and they in turn passed out cigars to the men and left pencils, candy etc. to be distributed among the school population. It was a nice friendly gesture.

It was this same fall that a Seismograph crew moved into this town with their Trailer and Mobile homes. The single men rented sleeping rooms, so this accounted for much activity. It was a boost for the business people in town, and many friends were made.

The next event of importance that I can recall was the Ladies Auxiliary to the Donalda Community Council which was organized in the living quarters of the telephone office over cups of coffee (we soon found that strong coffee was a must at every time or place we'd get together).

As I remember, it was a new community hall that was the top priority; The Odd Fellows Hall was the only one in town and was getting a bit old. It was also too small for such a progressive town and community. The ladies felt that in this way they could be of more help to the Council, so the new hall might become a reality a little sooner. This organization was known as the Auxiliary. Some of these ladies were at every other gathering of people, large or small, serving coffee and lunch, and sometimes netting only \$2.00, most times more. Every penny counts, was our motto.

In 1953 a group became very interested in square dancing. The Donaldaites wanted to find out first hand just how much fun it was, so a caller and instructor from the Ponoka area was contacted and came to get us started. He helped us over the hard spots, until some of our own group could do some calling. We found it was so much fun and so many came to these dances that it was a must to get the new hall ready for use real soon. So while the floor was still of ply-wood it was being used for square dancing. Then someone suggested having Klondike Nites, and no sooner said than done.

This too, caught on very well in Donalda. There was phoney money, costume dress, and beards. Everything anyone could think of to portray the Klondike. It was fun for everyone from pre-schoolers to great-grandparents. People came from all over the Province to see and take part in this performance and even the new hall was too small, so the next step was to expand and run it for two nights.

The ladies and men put their talents and ideas together and getting very busy, made souvenirs and novelties, to be sold at this function, to help raise money. The Klondike Queen was the next addition, and the young girls from surrounding towns got into the act. They would each try to sell more advanced tickets than the others and so become Queen. This also helped bring in more money. Everyone had fun and worked hard. Klondike has been going on for twenty-five years.

While all this was happening, the United Church was not forgotten. By this time it had been insulated and the basement was finished. In those days, a product called White Rez was discovered, and every board that was put on a wall, be it Church basement or Community Hall, must have this stuff painted on. It had to be wiped off exactly at the right moment with a clean soft cloth to get the right shade — no streaks allowed on these walls.

Now the church basement could be used for quilting, so when any lady had a bit of spare time, here is where she could be found, making these short, short little stitches on a pretty quilt. Sometimes we cheated a little and just tied a quilt (it was much faster). These were sold, so we made a little money too. It all got done after enough time and work.

There were several brave and strong ladies who belonged to the Cemetery Club, whose ambition it was to keep the cemetery looking nice and neat. They did a most commendable job too, as there was no water at the cemetery. Every year when it came time to put the bedding out plants in their places in the cemetery, the ladies that could get control of a truck would find some cans, fill them with water, via the pump handle and water the delicate little plants after they were placed firmly in their chosen spot. They had to be watered often, until their little roots were well established. Then the ladies spent the rest of the summer out there caring for them. It was well worth the work we had done, but we were not finished yet.

It was hard to get a care taker, and some years impossible. The grass would keep right on growing and would need cutting. So these same ladies who had gas powered lawn mowers brought them out there. Anyone who has ever used a gas lawn mower of 1950 vintage or older will know that a little rope goes with it and to start the things you must pull on this little rope. Some afternoons there might be six or seven ladies out there, each with one of these mowers, pulling on the rope; away they would go. It was a sight to behold! It usually took more time to get them started than it did to cut the grass. Somehow the grass was always cut by lunch time and by luck and planning one of the ladies would have coffee and goodies waiting at her home, where we would gather afterwards — to sit and rest and talk about our good work. It was a nice social time.

It was during the 1950 years that the County system really came into its own. Donalda being situated near the edge of the dividing line between Camrose and Stettler, it was a guessing game for a while as to which county Donalda would be in. When the decision was made, we found we were in the Stettler county; as always, some were happy with the out-

come and others would have rather have been in the Camrose county.

For Mr. MacLean, it made it a bit easier this way. There were many trips to be made to the county office for various meetings and sometimes to pick up supplies that somehow had not come on the truck. In those days the roads weren't as nice as they are now with the hard surface topping. Stettler is at least fifteen miles closer than Camrose.

The school in Donalda was too small to accommodate all the children being bussed in from the surrounding area, so a new addition was built on and all grades from one to twelve were taught. This seemed to be another step forward.

There is a magic age that everyone reaches, where the next step is to retire from the work they've been doing for years. Mr. MacLean reached that milestone in 1962, so we decided to find out what comforts and conveniences the city and a new home had to offer. As we had always rather liked Calgary, on July 4th. of that year we waved good-bye to Donalda and wended our way south.

The years we spent in Donalda were exciting, interesting and really most happy ones, getting to know and become friends of all those progressive and congenial people. It's very enjoyable to go back to Donalda to reunions of one kind or another; so encouraging to see the progress that has been made with new streets opened up, beautiful new homes, redecorated old ones, all with their well kept lawns and colorful flower beds. Everyone takes such pride in their homes. Most of all we enjoy seeing and chatting with those old friends that are still there. Then there is always a little note of sadness, when I think of some of the ones I enjoyed working with so much, who are not there any more, but they are remembered and missed.

The Keith Marshall Story by Regina Marshall

It was in the spring of 1958 that our family, Keith, Regina, and son, Martin, came to the Donalda district, moving onto the former Walter Persinger farm. I recall the first person we met was Mike Vikse. He was working in the town office in Donalda. He welcomed us to the area and said we would find the people very friendly. How right he was! The first time we attended Sharon Lutheran Church, we were welcomed with open arms. The people were fantastic, always ready to share lunch and coffee with you.

We made many friends and never really forgot any of them. In March, 1960, Elaine was born (on Dagny Norman's birthday). What a thrill, it was a girl! In May 1960 we moved to Red Willow, where Keith went to work for the County of Stettler, but

Donalda was still our home. The children attended Sunday School, I was a member of Sharon Ladies' Aid, and the smorgasbord suppers, that was really something! I don't think I ever knew a community that could be so related and yet so friendly, ready to accept new people into their fold. By this time Martin had attended almost two years of school at Cora Lynn. In February 1964, Keith went to work for the Ponoka County and then in April he moved his family to Rimbey.

Martin took the rest of his schooling in Rimbey, graduating from Grade twelve in September 1974. He joined the Canadian Forces and went to Royal Roads Military College, Victoria, British Columbia. Then on to Winnipeg, where he received his wings in March, 1979. He is now a Lieutenant, stationed at Greenwood, Nova Scotia. Martin was married in July 7, 1979.

Elaine finished her grade twelve in Rimbey and graduated September, 1978. She attended College in Red Deer and is now working.

The Norris MacIntyre Story

Norris "Mac" MacIntyre came to Donalda in 1955 and worked for Clifton Clement for a period of about three years before he took employment in Donalda Co-Op Creamery. This position he held for sixteen or seventeen years, endearing himself to the many farmers on his cream route. Mac, as he was known, was most kind to man or beast. He did many a favor for the dairy farmers on his cream route which they still remember.

Mac owned and lived in the former Porter and Dempsey Real Estate building on Main Street. Here he gave a home to a friendly and intelligent stray dog that he named "Lonesome" because he was a dog without a home. They became the best of friends. This dog later proved his worth, as he seemed to be a self appointed guardian of the children in the village, sensing something wrong when they wandered off alone, bringing them back and alerting the parents. At one time he stayed with an older gentleman who had fallen in the snow, during sub-zero temperature, barking until someone in the vicinity came to his aid.

For his intelligence, devotion and alert instinct of danger "Lonesome" was installed as a Member of Purina's Animal Hall of Fame in 1970.

Mac had to spend several months in hospital after this event took place. He was lonely for his dog during this time, and the day Mac was well enough to return home, happily looking forward to being reunited with his dog, he learned to his dismay that Lonesome had died that very day. Lonesome had been struck by a truck and had to be put out of his misery.

Mac made his home with the Hjalmer Normans until he recuperated.

In June, 1975, Mac left for Huntingdon, Quebec to be with members of his family. A year later, Mac passed away in Huntingdon, Quebec on July 21, 1976.

Don and Cele McMurchey

Mr. McMurchey came to Donalda to teach school after retiring in Saskatchewan about 1957, staying here for three or four years. They went to Wainwright and returned to Regina, Saskatchewan to retire.

One of Cele's experiences living out of a city, was not having indoor plumbing. The first time she cleaned house, she took the slop pail from under the dry sink to scrub the floor. Delighted with her accomplishment, she walked to the sink, emptied the pail of scrub water; needless to say she had to do it all over again.

Many times since leaving they commented about the good times and friends they made while in Donalda. They were only sorry they waited so late in life to go to a small town.

They lived in the teacherage where Min Derocher now lives.

Mons Monson Story

by Henry Monson

Mr. Mons Monson, his wife, and family — Norman, Margaret and Henry arrived in Donalda April 10, 1928. My father was fortunate enough to be employed by the C.N.R. as section foreman. He had gainful employment and we managed to live through the so-called dirty thirties. I was seven years old when we arrived in Donalda. My brother Norman — 1½ years older and who now resides in Stettler. Margaret is two years older than Norman and lives in Red Deer.

My first school teachers were Mrs. Allan and Miss Rosie Rasmussen. We children were unable to speak English as we were of Norwegian descent and spoke Norwegian fluently at home.

I was born at Entwistle, Alberta, January 1st, 1921. I quit school in 1937, and went to work for Samuel Strahan for \$10.00 per month. Norman hired on the C.N.R. at Red Willow. I remember it distinctly. His rate of pay was 25¢ per hour. Margaret was married in 1936 to Oscar Jacobson.

I did casual labour until 1941 in this vicinity. On January 6, 1941, I joined the R.C.A.F. and was transferred to Victoria, British Columbia. I served four years less one month. In 1946 I received my release from the Service and resumed work with the C.N.R.

My Dad's name was not Monson but Mons Hutland. He was born in Bergen, Norway in 1885. My

mother's maiden name was Karren Schelberg, and she was born in 1881, on a little Island called Smøllen, near Oslo. They were married at Madison, Wisconsin, and then came to British Columbia — Prince Rupert — about 1914 — the year the war broke out.

They lived in various places — Hanna, Red Willow, Meeting Creek then to Donalda. We only lived in Red Willow three months so actually my first teacher was Alice Baird. Then my dad bid on the job in Meeting Creek, and he was successful. Our teacher there was Bob Cantelon.

It was during the 30's that we had the drought. It never rained for months, there was nothing but dust. The sun looked like a copper ball. We had no power, except what Henry Paegge produced from a dynamo at the creamery.

We had a doctor — Doc. Jackson, who lived in the same building where Mrs. Itha Steinhoff lives now. He was a country doctor, and in the winter he made calls on the sick with his driving team and in the summer he drove his car. The little stable is still there where he kept his horses. During the winter of 1932-33 Doctor Jackson came to my Dad's place and asked him if he could take Frank Martins 2 or 3 year old baby to the Camrose hospital. The snow drifts were so deep you could not go anywhere with a car. My Dad had the enclosed motor car (Railway Speeder) which he had designed himself. Doctor Jackson had Mr. and Mrs. Martin with him and the baby. They all went on the speeder to Camrose even though it was against company policy. My dad almost lost his job but he saved the baby's life. One other time Dad took Raymond Banta to Camrose on the push-car. He also took Fred Tebow, the old cattle buyer. My dad helped to save several people when he was foreman here years ago.

In 1943 Dad bought the little house from Jacob Vikse for about \$600.00. My Dad retired from the railway in 1950. He was 65 years old. He stayed in Donalda for several years, then when his health failed he went to the Old People's home in Stettler. After about 2 years he went to Beaver Lodge, Edmonton. Still not content he was admitted to Bashaw Lodge where he resided until he passed away in 1972.

I — Henry resigned from the railroad in June, 1952. I then worked for John and Joe Tucker during threshing and haying, etc. I worked in the coal mines during the winter. I can remember John Tucker working with as many as 20 head of horses. I also remember when John owned a ¼ of land three miles north of town where Bert Roberts was living. John also had an old Buick car. My Dad had a new 1936 Chev Demonstrator which at that time was valued at \$1,266.00. John offered my Dad the ¼ of land plus

his car for the new Chev, but my dad would not accept it. Many times it was said, why didn't you trade and you would have had a place for your boys. But then land was practically worthless, but cars were less. Many times since I wish my dad would have consented.

My mother passed away in October 1953. Both Mr. and Mrs. Monson are buried in Donalda Cemetery.

Murat Story

Henry E. Murat bought a harness and shoemaker business from Ben Carmen in the early twenties. He later became a machinery agent for Renfrew, Cockshutt and John Deere. When he passed away, the business was sold to Gordon Otteson.

The Murats owned S.W. 5-42-18-w4 (where John Swaren lives) and operated a dairy farm for some time.



Mr. Murat and his school van.

Mrs. Murat reserved the two downstairs bedrooms for maternity and medical patients under the direction of Dr. Hodgson. They lived in the house now owned by Kay Blomgren. Mrs. Murat moved to Edmonton where she ran a boarding house for a few years until ill health made it impossible for her to continue. She moved to Camrose where she passed away. They had three children; Ruby (Mrs. Olaf Odegard) of Camrose, Clara (Mrs. Morris Stone) of Markerville, and Aloyse.

Aloyse married Viva Stenlund in 1935. They had five children. Vivian (Mrs. Robert Halseth) has five children and lives at Donalda. Their children are; Brenda (Mrs. Gordon Klatt) who has three children and lives in Botha, Becky has one son and lives in Edmonton, Bob married Joanne Leach from Lac La Biche and lives in Donalda, and Kevin and Kelly are at home.

Betty Murat (Mrs. Neil Fjell) has four children,

Jeffery, Brent, Chris and Dawn, and lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Lily Mae Murat (Mrs. Dick Dais) lives in Calgary and has two children Phillip and Pamela.

Joyce Murat (Mrs. Walter Klien) lives in Camrose.

Linda Murat (Mrs. Lloyd Filimeck) lives at Black Diamond and has two boys Lance and Lane.

Arthur lives in Edmonton.

Viva passed away in 1967 and Aloyse passed away in 1971.

The Otteson Family

The Ottesons moved to Donalda in 1911. Carsten Otteson ran a Real Estate and Insurance Agency. In 1913 he died, leaving his wife Lena alone with four small children, Edna, James, Hortense, and Gordon who was born a few months later. She also had her invalid mother living with her.

In 1914 Lena was appointed Post Mistress. The former post office had been in a general store owned by S. P. Lee. It was necessary to find new quarters for office space and living accommodations. She bought a dance hall on Railway street, from C. B. Murphy, and had it renovated to house both.

In 1915, Alberta Government Telephones in-



From front to back: Mrs. Rasmussen, Mrs. McIntyre, Mrs. Otteson. Second row: Lillian Rasmussen, Hortense Anderson, Mrs. A. Vikse. Third row: Edie Anderson, Edna Paege, Rose Rake, Mrs. O. Anderson.

stalled the switchboard, with forty local phones, and seventeen rural lines. There was a twelve hour service, but Mother always left the night alarm on for emergencies.

The building was completely destroyed by fire in 1927. She rebuilt and continued as post mistress for thirty-six years, and as the telephone operator for thirty-five years.

Mother was an active member in the United Church, and a charter member of the Rebekah Lodge.

Hortense and Edna spent a number of years helping in the post office, and telephone office. Gordon also worked there for some time.

In 1950, the year of her retirement, the citizens of Donalda and district held a picnic in Mothers honor. She was presented with flowers, and a combination radio and record player.

Mother moved to Edmonton in 1961 to live with her daughter Edna. She passed away in 1962.

Edna — married Henry Paege in 1932. They moved into a house owned by Percy and Carline Jones.

James — worked for the Alberta Wheat Pool for a number of years. Later, he operated B. A. Bulk Stations at Camrose, Athabasca, and at Westaskiwin. He married Laura Jackson. They had two sons, Roger and Ronnie. Roger is married and has three sons and a daughter. He works for Alarco in Edmonton as a Chartered Accountant.

Ronnie lives in Vancouver.

James passed away in 1951. Laura lives in Winnipeg.

Hortense — married Clarence Anderson in 1934. Clarence was with the Bank of Montreal, and was posted to several different towns. He also spent some time as a bank inspector, before becoming a branch manager in Calgary. He was there until his death in 1970. Hortense still lives in Calgary.

Their daughter Joan is a nurse, and is married to Vaughn Gusa. They live in Kenton, Washington where Vaughn works for Boeing Aircraft. They have a son in the navy, and two daughters at home.

Gordon — worked for a cattle buyer "Fred Tebow". After Fred's death, he continued buying cattle in the Donalda district. He also had the John Deere agency.

Gordon married Irene Pickering. They have a son Steven who lives in Ontario. Every year he visits his dad in Edmonton. Irene is in Ontario.

The Paege Family

Henry came to Donalda in 1927 to work with his brother-in-law, John Greenbo, who had just pur-



Donalda Ladies early thirties: Mrs. Dempsey and Pat, Mrs. Otteson, Mrs. M. Vikse, Mrs. F. Erickson, Mrs. P. Rasmussen, Mrs. O. Anderson, Mrs. C. Lausen, Mildred Stolee and Baby Grant, Edna Paege and Donna Jean down in front.

chased the creamery from Woodland Dairies. When the Greenbo's left, Henry took over as sole owner. Some of his earlier staff included Lawrence Lloyd, Cliff Rasmussen, Arnold Stolee and Percy Jones.

In 1932 he installed a generating plant in the back of the creamery to supply lights to the town. Some times the engines would stop — no lights, and Henry would have to make a mad dash to the plant.

Henry married Edna Otteson in 1932. To this union was born two daughters and one son. The children, Donna, Harley and Anita all started school under Margaret Lawson.

In 1937 the creamery became a Co-op Association. Henry remained manager until 1947. That year Calgary Power bought the light plant.

The family moved to Chipman, as a company had been formed to build a new creamery there. Henry was manager for ten years, when Palm Dairies bought the plant and Henry and Edna moved to Edmonton to retire.

In 1961 Palm Dairies needed a manager for the Ryley and Tofield creamery. They approached Henry and he managed both plants for awhile until a replacement was found for Ryley. He continued to manage the Tofield creamery until his death in 1968.

Donna Jean and her husband, Jack James, live in Port Alberni, B.C. He is a foreman for the McMillan and Bloedell Lumber Company. They have three children Roy, Raymond and Sharron. Roy is married and has a son Aaron, the first grandchild.

Harley worked for a finance company in Winnipeg and Port Arthur for several years. He married Sue Penny. They later moved to Edmonton and Harley operated Airways "Rent-A-Car". They have two children Bryan, fourteen, and Diane, twelve years. Harley passed away in 1977. Sue is a nurse and continues to live in Edmonton.

Anita and her husband, Gerald Anderson, live four miles from Lamont, where Gerry farms four sections of land. He owns an airplane and enjoys flying.

Anita works part time as an X-ray technician in the Lamont hospital.

They have three children Gayle, Janice, and Ricky, who are still in school.

The Sam Pearce Girls

by Elizabeth Sand and Beatrice Kahl

I, Elizabeth was the first born, one mile west and about two miles north of Donalda on December 7, 1921. Melvin Tucker went for the doctor who lived in Donalda in the house that Mrs. Bill Steinhoff now lives in. The first Christmas present I had came from the school Christmas tree at the Donalda school. At that time there was a present for all the children born that year and mine was a cake of baby soap. I have heard my mother say that when I was two years old she took me to an auction sale and I went to sleep and she laid me on the bed in the house and she went out, then heard the auctioneer say 'How much for this baby'. Needless to say she didn't get a bid so they took me home again.

On April 13, 1925 Beatrice my only sister was born on the same farm, then we moved back to Meeting Creek. Miss Margaret Lawson was my first teacher, and also was still teaching when I graduated at Donalda, and attended my graduation.

In November 16, 1943 Elizabeth married Orin Sand from Rose Bush, in the Edberg district whose parents were pioneers in that district, arriving about 1901. We lived on a farm at the Ferry Point district until 1979, when we moved back to Donalda. They say a bad penny returns, so I guess it's about the truth. In 1976, we bought the Hotel in Donalda. We had two boys; Melbourne Orin and Robert Samuel.

Elizabeth and I (Beatrice) grew up in the Ferry Point district taking our schooling up to grade eight, then part of our high school in Meeting Creek. When I went to Donalda High School I stayed with my grandmother Mrs. Wm. Dawes. After graduation, I married Dee Kahl, in the Donalda United Church, then lived on the Kahl farm for thirty years. We then moved to Stettler where I managed the Betty Shop, then moved back to Donalda in 1979. Dee and I have two boys; John William who was named after two pioneers in the district, his grandfather and uncle, who came to this district in 1906, and a second son we called Michael Dee.

The Peatman Family

Dad, Mom, younger brother John and I (Dennis) arrived in Donalda on a sunny, cold day in April

1930, from Nottingham, England. We were met at the station by Dad Murat (the town dray-man), who drove us to my uncle and aunt's farm (Charlie Chapman) west of town. My Aunt Violet (mother's sister) had set up housing for us, a half mile west of their farm. Also in September of 1930, arrived our sister Mary, then along came brother Lynn in 1932, to round off our happy family. Harvey arrived November 1936.



The Peatman Family with Mother (Ivy) in the center.

In the new years that followed, Dad worked for a number of the farmers in the surrounding district; C. Chapman, Dad Winters, Whitehorns and R. Roberts. In 1936 Dad became the caretaker of the school in town, so we moved into town, along with a cow, and some chickens. Dad and Mum bought one of the Chamber's houses, west of the Lutheran church. Dad remained caretaker of the school until 1940, at which time he joined the army. While in the service, dad soon decided to become a cook rather than continue with foot slogging, after basic training camp at High Prairie. Dad remained in the army serving as a cook in a number of camps in Canada. Before obtaining his discharge he became head chef at the Mewata Armouries, Calgary.

After his discharge he obtained a job as head chef for R.C.A.F. Station Calgary, until his retirement in June 1964. In 1955 Dad married Nan and they now reside in Calgary, where Dad spends many hours in his greenhouse.

Dennis: In 1941 I joined the ranks and went overseas, serving in England, Sicily, Italy, France, Belgium, Germany and Holland, returning in 1945. Shirley and I were married in December 1945. We had a family of four — James — 30, married with two children; Dennis Jr. — 22 — married in 1978; Georgina — 28 — married with two children; and Patricia — 20 — ; all of whom reside in Calgary. Shirley passed away suddenly in September 1973.

I have been employed by the Federal Government

Service since 1946. At the present time I am the Purchasing Agent for Energy, Mines and Resources. I married Audrey in March, 1978, and now reside in Carstairs.

During the war years Mother decided the little old shanty roofed house needed to be remodelled, so she rebuilt a lot of it herself, as help was hard to find and money was scarce. The rebuilt house still remains in good condition today. In 1946, Mother, Mary, Lynn and Harvey moved to Oliver, B.C. in the Okanagan Valley, due to Mother's health. She died there in 1966.

John: In the spring of 1944 in a grade 8 poll, I was voted most likely to succeed as a hired hand and least likely to travel. In 1944 the J. W. Dempsey family and I moved to Victoria, B.C. In 1946 I joined the Royal Canadian Navy, and the next year I was in the British West Indies. In 1948 during the Chinese revolution, I saw many Chinese cities. In 1950 at the start of the Korean War, I found myself aboard the H.M.C.S. Athabaskan, along with Harry Snaith of Red Willow. We returned to Canada in 1951 and I took my discharge.

I joined the Robert Simpson Co. now known as Simpson — Sears Ltd. in 1951. At present, I am the Training Manager in the Burnaby Retail Store. Kay and I were married in 1952. We have one son, Garry — 19, two daughters, Shelly — 16 and Judy — 9. We now reside in West Vancouver, overlooking beautiful Howe Sound, only five minutes from Horseshoe Bay ferry terminal.

Mary: (Mrs. D. Mitchell) I started school in 1937 and the new teacher was Miss Lawson. My brother, Lynn and I delivered milk for the Stolee's for several years, every day. For this we were well paid, \$1.00 at the end of the month. I think milk was 10¢ a quart. In 1946 I moved to Oliver with Mother, Lynn and Harvey. I married David Mitchell. We have three



Mary, John, Lynn, Harvey and Mother Ivy Peatman.

children, Doug, Gordon and Cindy. We reside in West Vancouver.

Lynn: After completing his education, he obtained a position with the Imperial Bank of Commerce, where he soon became a branch manager. He served in a number of centres in B.C. and southern Alberta. He married Meta in 1962, and had two boys, Mark and Sean. He died suddenly in 1969.

Harvey: I was born in Camrose Hospital on November 15, 1936. I spent the first ten years of my life in a small friendly farming community — Donalda. After leaving Donalda in July, 1946, I attended schools in Calgary, Oliver and Vancouver. In 1955, I, like my brother Lynn, joined the staff of the Imperial Bank and worked in branches in Vancouver, Langley and Cranbrook until 1960, when I took up employment with Mountain Gas Ltd., as the firms Credit Manager and later as Accountant and Assistant Secretary Treasurer of School District No. 2 (Cranbrook). In 1971 I transferred to School District No. 23 (Kelowna) and in 1974 was appointed Secretary Treasurer (Corporate Officer) of the school district, which now has a budget of over thirty — eight million dollars.

I married Sadie in 1958 and have a family of two daughters, ages 11 and 13.

Alfred Pedersen

Alf. was born in Denmark in 1901. He came to Canada in 1923 to the Forestburg district where he worked as a farm hand during the summer months. In the winter he went to Northern Alberta where he was employed for a few years in lumber camps throughout the area.

In 1937 he came to Donalda where he was a silent partner in the Chinese Cafe Business with Jim Poon for a year and a half, after which he went to the Lethbridge area where he worked in the sugar beet fields.

In 1939 he came to Bashaw where he rented a Pool Hall, operating his business and helping farmers in the fields in his spare time, until 1944 when he came to Donalda. He rented the Pool Hall and Barber Shop from the Ayers Brothers, making his home there, and operating his Business until his retirement about 1971.

He is still a very busy man with his hobbies as repairman in Television, Clocks, etc. besides caring for and keeping his home in shape.

He was always willing to help a neighbor until his health failed, he would often be seen mowing a lawn, or fixing a fence, or whatever else might need attention. He still resides in Donalda.

William Earl Porter

William Earl Porter and Irene Barber were married in 1907 in Kansas. William immigrated to Canada in 1911, arriving in Stettler with a freight car of farm equipment and a pair of mules. He settled on a half section east of Science Mound School. Irene followed by train shortly after. Times were tough during the first two or three years, the crops were frozen or hailed. William hauled coal from the coulee to Stettler by sleigh during the winter for \$2.00 a load, to make grocery money. Around 1916 William contracted with Pat Burns of Calgary to feed cattle in the wintertime, and this paid quite well.

1917, William was appointed Sec.-Treas. of the Municipal District of Haig No. 396, he remained until 1942 when the district merged into the county of Stettler.



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W. E. Porter letterhead.

Irene taught school at Science Mound for quite a time during World War I.

In 1919, the Porters built a house south of Donalda, now occupied by the Albert Normans. The farm was sold to the late Fred Henke.

In the 1920's William went into partnership with J. W. Dempsey, engaging in a number of activities including; the Imperial Oil Agency, Chevrolet and Buick dealership, Real Estate, Loan, Insurance, estate management and legal work of all kinds. Mr. Dempsey left the business to join the R.C.A.F., about 1942, and William carried on the business until he retired to Victoria in 1948.

William and Irene moved uptown in 1942 into the house now occupied by Margaret Lawson. William enjoyed gardening and was active with the village council. They were strong supporters of the United Church.

William died in 1955 at the age of 72. Irene moved to Ottawa following William's death until 1972, age 86, when she died.

William and Irene adopted Dorothy Stanlake in the early 20's after the death of Dorothy's mother. Dorothy and Winston only son of William and Irene, finished high school in Donalda. Dorothy graduated

from the School of Nursing at the University Hospital in 1935. She worked for many years in Stettler, Berwyn, and Ponoka. She married William Strojich and lived in Edmonton where her husband was an officer with the Canadian Army until 1948 when they moved to Ottawa. Dorothy and William had two daughters, Gwen and Barbara. William retired in 1973 and moved to Calgary. They spent two winters in Nigeria with the Canadian Executive Services Overseas, and now resides in Bonnyville, Alberta, where William is employed with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Winston attended the University of Alberta obtaining a B. Comm. and M.A. and worked for the Federal Department of Agriculture in Alberta until 1942. In 1937 he married Brigid O'Fee of Clondonald. They had two sons, William and Michael and two daughters Patricia and Alonna. Alonna was killed in a tragic accident in 1976.

In 1942, Winston and family moved to Regina where he managed the Canadian Hail Insurance Underwriters Assoc. Winston in 1943 accepted a commission in the Royal Canadian Navy. After the war they moved to Ottawa where Winston worked with the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. From 1962-1966 Winston and Brigid accompanied by Micheal and Alonna lived in Paris, France where Winston had been transferred by the Department of External Affairs as Director of Food and Agriculture of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

In 1966 they returned to Ottawa where Winston took over management of the Census of Canada. In 1973 he retired as Director-General of that organization. 1974-1975 he acted as a special consultant to the Canadian Tariff Board. Winston had open heart surgery in 1975. After his convalescence he and his wife spent time travelling.

Winston and Brigid have nine grandchildren.

Don and Esther Potter and Family

It was in the fall of 1957 when we moved from Stettler to Donalda. Don went into partnership with Bob Holladay in the Donalda Feed Service Ltd.

Our first home was a four room house owned by Jimmy Jones. Our neighbors to the south, Hazel and Sherman Jones, were kind enough to let us use water from their pump.

On washdays, we would haul water from the feedlot well. Scotty Matheson would supervise, easing the task with his jokes and stories.

Our first child, Bill, was born in February of 1958. We invested in our first television set that year and, along with Winston Clements, had one of the

first sets in Donalda. Watching TV was a social affair, and we had many visitors that winter.

Our three children were all born at St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose — David in September, 1960 and Eric in March, 1964.

For a time we lived in a house owned by Bob and Doris Wotherspoon (south of the Holladay home) before moving to the bungalow built by Chris Lausen Jr.

Our neighbors to the south were Charlie and May Steil. Charlie seemed a little perturbed when Kelly, our Irish Setter, gave birth to nine pups. He seemed happy when he told him they would all be sold. He did like to lean over the back fence, though, and watch the litter slurp their dinner piggy style from a communal pan.

Our living room and kitchen windows looked south to Addie Hilker's tree filled property. It was a bird watcher's paradise. We saw orioles, mountain bluebirds, evening grosbeaks, waxwings and countless other birds, including the occasional hummingbird.

Eric was still in diapers when Donalda's waterworks were turned on. That was a great day for us all! Don was a town councillor at the time. He also served as Donalda's representative on the County of Stettler school committee; President of the Community Council and Scout leader.

Following the sale of our shares in Donalda Feed Service Ltd. to John Skene in 1967, we moved to Kenilworth district in Edmonton.

Don initially took a position as farm broadcaster on "Call of the Land", then became executive assistant to the Alberta Agriculture Minister; Acting Deputy Minister of Alberta Agriculture; and more recently, manager of the Broiler Chicken and Turkey Marketing Boards.

He has served on the executive of several Edmonton and Provincial organizations and remains an active member of Fidelity Lodge A.F. and F.M. at Bashaw.

In 1972, I finished my B. Ed degree and worked for five years as a resource teacher. I am presently self-employed as a freelance writer and stoneware potter.

Bill is now in his own bachelor apartment. The rest of us still reside in the same home we purchased after leaving Donalda.

The Daniel Rake Family

Daniel Rake (born in Rake, Iowa, 1879) was always looking for greener pastures, consequently he moved many times from Iowa to Minnesota to North Dakota, then to Ferndale, Washington. He and

Anna, his wife, had seven children then, three daughters and four sons. Two daughters, Alice and Elizabeth died while residing in Iowa.

In 1921 Rakes moved from their farm in Washington to a quarter of land east of the Ole Jacobson farm in the Ibsen district. They arrived during the spring break-up and the trail down through the coulee was muddy and the creek was flooding. It seemed very bleak and the family was quite discouraged.

Agnes was in grade six when they came from the States. She remembers the homesick feeling the Canadian flag at the front of the school gave her. They had lived by a highway so their new home seemed lonesome. She was afraid of the strange animals, the coyotes. Later when the grass became green and the wild flowers, lady slippers, shooting stars, tiger lilies and buttercups were blooming, the valley was a scene of beauty. They soon learned to love Canada and never regretted the move.

The women in those days were as conscious about hair-dos as women today. Marcelling the hair was done with curling tongs. In the home the women were busy sewing, baking, churning butter, making soap, making rugs and quilts, canning wild berries. Clothes washing was done on scrub boards and ironing with flat irons heated on wood and coal stoves. The homes were lighted by kerosene lamps.

One more son, Dennis was born in 1925 while the family lived on this farm. In 1926 they moved west of Donalda. In 1927 another daughter was born, Annabelle.

Dan drove doctors and cattle buyers around to farms where they were needed. He also served as a country veterinarian himself. His hobby was making wooden novelties from diamond willow trees. Anna had a spinning wheel and knit all the woolen mitts, socks and sweaters for the family or anyone who needed woolens. But one could say her hobby was making patch work quilts.

They both enjoyed gardening and much time was spent on this in later years. In 1949 Dan died. Anna continued living in Donalda until her death in 1957.

Alvilda, Eddy and Dennis are deceased. Albert married Mathilda Graf and they live at Revelstoke. Richard married Rose Rasmussen and they live at Wetaskiwin. Agnes married Clifford Beckman, who has passed away. They farmed at Edberg and Agnes has retired to Camrose. Annabelle married Jim Jones and they live in Jasper. Christina married Austin Bailey, they live at Vernon. Palmer, who has passed away, was married to Mary Matheson.

Michael Rogutski Story

Mike Rogutski was born on a farm at Derwent (Angle Lake District) on October 5, 1914 and was raised in a family of three boys and three girls. He received his public school education at Zora and his high school at Derwent. He worked on the home farm until 1943.

On February 7, 1942 he married Irene Romaniuk of Derwent, who was born July 6, 1924 in the Derwent area and grew up on the family farm. They lived on the Rogutski family farm until their first child Patricia was born November 20, 1942.

In December 1943, they left the farm and moved to Vancouver where Mike worked in the shipyards during the winter. In May 1944, they moved to Oliver, British Columbia where Mike was employed in the orchards. Dennis was born October 24, 1944 at Oliver. In December 1944 they bought a home in Vernon, British Columbia where they remained for three years working on construction.

In 1947, they sold their home in Vernon and bought a house in Vancouver and moved there, continuing carpentry.

In 1949, by fall, jobs were scarce so they sold their home in Vancouver and moved back to Derwent where they bought a lot and moved in a house. Here Mike continued to work as a carpenter. Jobs were scarce and Mike went to work for Canadian Utilities building the power line from Derwent to Two Hills. During the summer, Mike was transferred to Castor to help build the line from Halkirk to the Forestberg mines, a three week project. In the fall the family moved to Castor. By this time they started work on the power line from Castor to Hanna. Canadian Utilities decided to move the camp to Hanna, so the family followed. By the end of December 1950, Mike was finished with this job and in January 1951, Mike went to work for Canadian National Railways at Hanna. In July of 1951, Mike became a permanent section man at Chinook where Janette was born January 5, 1952. It was a steady job with the Canadian National Railways but they had to move from section to section quite often, (eleven moves in all), coming to Donalda in the fall of 1970 and here they have lived since. Mike worked as a section foreman until his retirement in October 1977, after working for the Canadian National Railways for twenty-seven years.

At this time, Mike was presented with a plaque and a set of cuff links and tie bar formed in a rail design bearing Mike's initials and the Canadian National symbol. The presentation was made with best wishes for many years of good health.

Mike and Irene's children are all married and live

in Edmonton. They have four granddaughters and one grandson to carry on the Rogutski name.

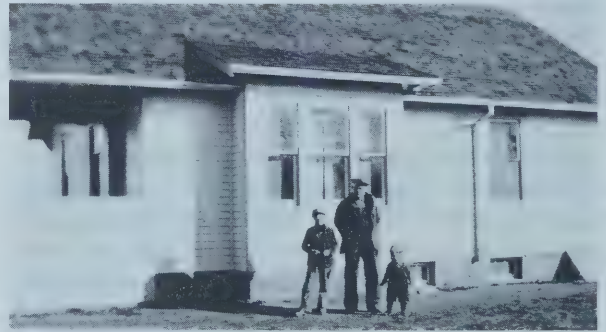
Mike and Irene have always been active in community affairs wherever they lived and especially enjoy the Senior Citizens group and the Donalda Community Council activities.

Mike and Irene are known for their generosity and their willingness to help others.

We could write a book on Irene and all the maladies she has lived through, but it is of interest that she became the first civilian in British Columbia to receive penicillin injections for a blood condition in order to save her life. This was administered by the army nurse in Vernon hospital under Army Guard.

William Patton Robinson 1883 — 1959

William came from a Tennessee farm family to Kansas and found employment with the Sante Fe Railroad; then moved on to homestead in Red Willow-Donalda district in 1909. He worked in coal mines in the Donalda area, and moved into the village of Donalda to take over the Livery and Dray business in 1926. W. P. Robinson known as Bill or Billy Robinson was an avid baseball player and many old pictures show him as the catcher with a Red



The new Robinson house in Donalda built in 1926-27. Billy Robinson and sons Melvin and Ralph.

Willow team. He served on the Donalda village council for a number of years, and was a member of the Masonic Lodge.

He married Anna Larson, daughter of Lars Larson Goransrud of Spruce Coulee and raised two sons, Melvin William now in Vancouver, and Ralph James of Penticton, B.C. His widow lives in Oliver, B.C. and will soon celebrate her 84th birthday.

The Livery Barn and Dray business was a booming business in the twenties. By 1942, with the improvement in roads and the increase in the number of cars and trucks the day of the horse was on the wane. Two of the most famous teams of horses in town "Jim and George" and later "Kate and Ches", (who

were a more common sight on the streets of Donalda than any resident), were replaced by modern vehicles.

During this time, ill health was a problem and it was necessary for Bill to move to a climate that could provide relief for a troublesome asthmatic condition. This move was to Oliver in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia where he continued to pioneer, developing two small orchards from raw land and growing peaches, apricots and cherries with the occasional watermelon and canteloupe vine not unlike his childhood days in the Southern United States.

John Skene Family

John and Evelyn Skene and family spent from 1967 to 1974 in Donalda where John operated the Donalda Feed Service. Previously they had lived in Edmonton. Their four youngest children received their schooling in Donalda. David started school, while Doreen, Debbie and Darlene took their public school at Donalda. Their sons Dennis and Darryl stayed in Edmonton where both worked for Gulf Oil.

While at Donalda their daughter Darlene married George (Gordie) Elliot. They now live at Spruce Grove and have one daughter, Terri.

Dennis married Darla Arnold of Stettler and now resides at Sexsmith, Alberta. They have two boys Timothy and Jason.

Darryl married Debbie Gordon of Red Deer and lives at Amisk, Alberta. They have a daughter Shelley and a son Thomas.

Debbie married John McDonald of Toronto and resides in Thunder Bay, Ontario. She is presently taking Interior Design at Thunder Bay University.

Doreen graduated from Lacombe High School in June and is attending Red Deer College, studying Secretarial Science.

David is attending high school in Lacombe.

After leaving Donalda, the Skene family moved to Lacombe where they had an Automotive business. In August 1979, they moved their business to Hardisty and are presently making Hardisty their home.

Tom Solomonson

Tom and his father and mother came from Polick, North Dakota in 1903. Tom's folks passed away around 1907.

Tom married Tena Nelson in 1907 and home-steaded the S.W. 28-42-18-w4. To this union eight children were born; Walter in 1908, Dorothy in 1911, Stanley in 1913, Elnora in 1915, Doris in 1920, Bertha in 1923, Thomas in 1925, and Arthur in 1928.

Tom Solomonson moved to Donalda in 1913, and the children attended school there. Tom had a well boring machine, and drilled wells for a couple of years. In 1914, he had the mail contract but sold it to Lum Hubble.

In 1918 he went into the well drilling business, and this was his occupation until 1937, during those years he had drilled fifty percent of the water wells between Red Willow and Meeting Creek.

In 1937, he took over the mail route from Lars Larson, delivering mail until 1947. Tom passed away in March 1947.

Their children: Dorothy went to Normal in Camrose in 1929-30 and was teacher in Mayerthorpe for a few years. She came back to Donalda and taught in Spruce Coulee for a couple years. Then taught at Beaver Lodge and Elmsworth. In 1939, she married Weller Connets and they moved back to Donalda, where they lived for a few years, they moved to Wanham and took up farming while Dorothy taught school. They retired in 1976 to live at Nanaimo, British Columbia.

Stanley went to Wetaskiwin and lived there a few years. He married Kit Shonty and they moved to Edmonton where he worked for Swifts until his health failed. He passed away in 1972.

Elnora went to Normal in 1935-36. She taught school at Beaver Lodge and married Helt Barber. She taught at that same school till her passing in July 1962.

Doris worked in Ponoka Hospital for a number of years, then went to Essendale, British Columbia where she took her R.N. She married Ralph Herrod and they live in Chilliwack, B.C.

Muriel married Glen Ayers and they reside in Ponoka. Bertha married Frank Herrod and they reside at Surrey, B.C.

Tommy worked in Ponoka then on to the Red Deer hospital where he was the Administrator. He passed away in 1972.

Arthur lived in Beaver Lodge until his passing.

Walter Solomonson

Walter married Vicky Kerik of Edberg and they have six children; Wesley, married JoAnn Mancher of Camrose and they live at Vegerville; David lives in Lloydminster; Dianne married Dennis Balderson and their home is in Stettler; Terry works in Lethbridge; Leona lives in Camrose; Trudy Anderson works in Stettler but makes her home with her parents in Donalda. Walter and their children all took their schooling in Donalda.

Walter worked with his dad drilling wells. He was also in the army in World War Two. In 1947 he

took over the mail route when his father retired. Walter retired in 1972 and at this time a 'Night' was put on in Donalda Hall for him. His mother was able to be with the family in her wheel chair for this occasion.

Walter was caretaker for the Donalda Cemetery Club for three years.

Walter's mother 'Tena' made her home with Walter and Vicky until 1973 when she moved to the Bethany Home in Camrose. She still enjoys doing cross-word puzzles and reading at the age of ninety-three.

Walter is the oldest person in Donalda at this time who can say they were born at Donalda.

Ernest and Elizabeth Suddaby

by E. Suddaby

In 1898 Mr. and Mrs. James Stewart came from Ontario to a homestead at Beaver Hills Lake, west of Vegreville. They had three children at that time, Christena, James and Elizabeth who was six weeks old. They stayed with friends until they got a shack built. It had a sod roof and everytime it rained the roof leaked. The gophers were so thick they had to put a board across the door to keep them out of the house. After a few years Mr. Stewart built a log house which is still standing there.

In 1899 Margaret was born, followed by Robert in 1904 and William in 1906. The Stewarts sold their farm in 1920 and moved to Grand Forks, British Columbia, but only stayed a few years and then



Mr. and Mrs. E. Suddaby's 45th Anniversary, 1966.

moved to Black Diamond, Alberta. After working in the oilfields awhile, they moved back to Beaver Hills Lake. Mrs. Stewart passed away in 1941 and Mr. Stewart went to live with his daughter Christena. Mr. Stewart passed away in 1957 at ninety years of age.

Christena married August Martin of Vegreville and moved first to Bawlf and then bought a farm in the Bethany district at Donalda. The Bethany Church is on this land. Later August and Christena moved into Donalda to live and their son Leonard remained on the farm. August passed away in 1965, Leonard in 1970 and Christena in 1976. Their daughter Ella Bailey is manager of the Bank in Donalda.

I (Elizabeth) went to high school in Vegreville and became a teacher. My last school was at Lavoy where I met Ernest Suddaby. We were married in November 1921. We had no family.

We sold our farm at Lavoy and settled in Donalda in June 1956. We bought a house from Leo Zeigler.

Ernest passed away in April of 1967.

We were caretakers of the Oddfellows Hall for seven years. The Oddfellows, Rebekahs and the Foresters held their meetings every week. There was also a picture show every Saturday night. The hall has been vacant for years. Now the Fibreglass Company have taken it over.

I am active with the United Church Women, the Cemetery Club and the Senior Citizens.

The Warrens

It was in August of 1954 that we first moved to Donalda to take up responsibilities of a lay preacher for the United Church of Canada in that area. The United Church, at that time, was responsible for serving some two hundred and fifty persons living in that area. The area consisted of the communities of Donalda, Red Willow, Buena Vista, Ibsen and Science Mound. The 'we' mentioned consisted of the parents, Bob and Gwen Warren and three children. Keith was seven years old at the time, Dale was five years old and Heather was two years old.

We soon found ourselves into several types of community activities as well as the work of the United Church there. We joined the Home and School organization that was very busy in the communities at that time. We also helped to organize a committee to produce the first historical book that was published about Donalda district and called "Fifty Years on the Coulee Rim". We organized a Young People's group at both Red Willow and Donalda, helped the Square Dance Club, The Boy Scouts, and helped to organize the first of the Klondike Nights that have since become famous in Central Alberta.

A letter from Vernon arrived, and we moved after

a two year ministry. We stayed a year at Vernon that proved to be a year of learning. Then back to Consort for four years and a second ministry in Donalda for another two years. I think we should say here that the whole family seemed to fit in well at Donalda, and had four very happy years there.

When we first moved to Donalda in 1954 we lived in the 'old manse' which has now been disposed of, and the second ministry we lived in the 'New Manse'. The village council was at that time trying to locate a suitable water supply, so there was no running water as such in the village. However, a bout with sciatica and an invitation to come to Alix, combined to help us to make up our mind to move where there was running water and natural gas. So we spent the next twelve years there. While we were at Consort Susan became a part of our family by adoption, so, during our second ministry we had four children until Margaret, a little charmer just eleven months old, joined our family in Donalda. Today Susan is a young housewife in Edmonton, and Margaret, now eighteen years old, lives with her and her husband Bob.

It was in June, 1977, that we retired to Pelican Point and have fixed up a very comfortable home here. We are able to keep in touch with our many friends in both Donalda and Alix. The family, like all families, are scattered. Keith, after several years in Ottawa and other parts of the east, is now working near Red Deer. Dale owns the Ambulance in Drayton Valley, and owns a share of a body shop there, and is doing very well financially. Heather is married to an Alix man, Keith Smith. They have just moved into a large house located on an acreage south of Red Deer. We have four grandchildren, Dale has a girl and a boy, and Heather also has a girl and a boy.

We had the pleasure of being with our Donalda friends on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the village, and also the sixtieth anniversary, where I (Bob) sang in the choir and was the guest preacher at a community Church Service.

You came into our lives in a wonderful way
You saw at one look what we needed,
Many others we saw on the street every day;
With a smile and a kind word they heeded.
Perhaps you were thinking of others much
more,

Or your own problems seemed to decree it,
But you quickly became a real part of our lives
Now — as we look backward — we see it.

Walter Westlund Family

Walter (Wally) Westlund was born at Ferry Point, the youngest of ten children. Wally joined the Canadian Army and had training in Edmonton and then in British Columbia where his training was completed with the Westminster Regiment. He went overseas in 1940 and served in action in Italy and Holland for four and half years before returning home in 1945.

Wally met Constance Alsop in England, who was in nurses training at that time and they were married there. Connie came to Alberta in 1946.

Wally and Connie moved to Donalda where Wally was employed at the Clement Hardware and then at Donalda Hardware until 1950, when he became the new Postmaster at Donalda. They built a new Post Office and home combined, on main street just east of where the Donalda Hotel now stands. Here they stayed for ten years, until the Government built the new Donalda Post Office on the corner where it is at present.

Wally and Connie moved their home to it's present location on the north west corner of Vikse Crescent. They continued to work at the Post Office until their retirement in June, 1979.

The Westlunds have two sons, Neil born in 1954, is married and has two children. He is employed with Lyons United, an Oil related industry in Brooks where they reside. Ronald born in 1956 joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and serves as senior constable at Prince George, British Columbia, where he and his wife and young son are living.



Somebody's home this cabin has been, suns and
storms ago;
Somebody's happiness held therein — happiness or
woe.
The rawhide hinge and the pine-slab door,
crumbling both to dust,
Lie where they fell on the warping floor —
The nails which held them, rust.
The doorway seems a gaping mouth, the window
well an eye —
Did they see — could they tell us tales of drought
And want as the years dragged by?
This home was builded with loving care, suns and
storms ago —
Who were the builders? What did they share? Why
did they leave it so?

Author Unknown

Buena Vista School District

RANGE - 20

RANGE - 19

**BUENA VISTA SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

BUENA VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT											
18		17		16							
				ED. HAGEN		VICTOR JOHNSON					
				OLE JOHNSON		OSCAR JOHNSON					
12		7		8		9		10		11	
		CPR.		HBC.		HBC.		CPR.		CPR.	
				HBC.		HBC.		CPR.		CPR.	
		CPR.		HBC.		HBC.		CPR.		CPR.	
		G.R. VASEY		T. ULYETT		CPR.		CPR.		CPR.	
1		6		5		4		3		2	
		L. JUDD		GEORGE ULYETT		CPR.		C.N. VAN DYKE		A. HAMMARBERG	
						BUENA VISTA School 4				JACK JACKSON	
To		GRANT		BROWN		CPR.		E. ERICKSON		FL. KRUMM	
BASHAW		36		31		32		33		34	
		GRANT		BRANT		CPR.		F. WILSON		ED. HEATER	
								CPR.		CPR.	
								P. CAVANAUGH		ANDREW NORMAN	
		C.W. BUCKMASTER		FAYS		SCHOOL		W.E. LEE		F. LEE	
25		30		29		28		27		26	
		S. WAGGEBY		FAYS		LAND		HERMAN VAN DYKE		HUTCHINSON	
										CPR.	
										HBC.	
										HARKER P.O. STORE	
										TWP 41	
</											

Buena Vista School District No. 1837

Regulations and Activities; as told by Alice Conibear, Astrid Rider and Myrtle Norman.

There are 36 sections in each township beginning in the southeast corner with section one, and ending in the northeast corner with section 36. Sections 11 and 29 were set aside as school sections. Section 8 and three-quarters of section 26 were granted to the Hudson Bay Co. In every fifth township the whole of section 26 was Hudson Bay land. Of the remaining sections, those bearing even numbers were reserved by the Government for Homestead Entry. Those with odd numbers belonged to railway companies. A large number belonged to the C. P. R.

The schools were not necessarily built on school land. Usually, we believe they were not. The Buena Vista School, in fact was built on S.E. 5-42-19-w4.

The early 1900's brought many homesteaders into this area and by 1907 or 1908 there were some with families who were interested in starting a school. W. E. Lee, who had homesteaded on N.W. 28-41-19-w4 had been a teacher in the States, and although still a bachelor, was very much interested in Education.



School Play, Nov. 10, 1922 — Lost Treasures.

He explained how they went about forming a school district. The first step was to petition the government (which was the Territorial Department of Education until 1905. After this it was the Provincial Department of Education).

The government then sent them an official procedure to follow in setting up a district. They had first to form a committee of three residents living in the proposed district. This was officially called an "Improvement District". This Committee then applied for instruction to form a school district. The Department of Education sent them official material and a map showing all schools already in the surrounding area. This was to make sure there was no overlapping, or strips left between districts.

The area should be five miles square but preferably only four by four miles, or four by five miles. This was to prevent some children from living too distant from the school. The area should include a road allowance in its centre.

There must be at least four persons who lived in the proposed district and so would be liable for school taxes. The district must contain at least twelve children not younger than five years nor older than sixteen. The Committee was required to supply a map of the proposed district numbering the sections, township, range, etc. and also include a name or names suggested for the district.

When all this was done the committee could then post notices calling for a school meeting. These notices had to be well displayed for at least fourteen days before the meeting.

At the meeting the ratepayers present from among themselves elected a chairman and secretary. Each one had to sign a declaration witnessed by the



Buena Vista School Children, 1947: Back Row — Jimmy Ordge, Henry Dahl, Eddy Green. Middle Row — Rodney Dahl, Joyce Williams, Lily Ordge, Doris Carlson, Beth Conibear and Shirley Dahl. Seated — Jean Green, Irene Dahl, Margaret Ordge, Ida Dahl.

president and the secretary. After this each one could vote for or against formation of a school district. In case of a tie the chairman cast the deciding vote. If a school district was voted into being, the chairman called for nominations for trustees. Three were necessary but more could be nominated and three elected from the number.

When all these official forms were returned to the Department of Education, the Minister of Education could establish a school district if he was satisfied that the proper procedure had been followed.

The schools were numbered in sequence as they were established, and they were also named from a name submitted from the district.

Buena Vista then, became an official school district number 1837. I believe its name was suggested by W. E. Lee after a school district he had taught in Oregon and meaning 'beautiful view'. I believe he was also the first secretary-treasurer of the district, a position which he held for many years.

Buena Vista school house, barn, coal shed, and outhouse were built by a local carpenter, Mr. E. Hagen, in 1908 and '09. Mr. Hagen received \$165.00 for the job.

The Assessment and Tax Roll book, now in the possession of Francis Lee, states that the Tax Assessment Notices were mailed September 4, 1908 and Tax Notices were mailed October 2, 1908. The taxation rate was 6 ¼ mills per assessed acre. The names on the assessment roll were as follows:

J. E. Hutchinson, Harker P.O. — S.E. 28-41-19-w4.

H. Van Dyke, Harker P.O.—N.E. 28-41-19-w4.

F. F. Lee, Monvel P.O. — N.W. 28-41-19-w4.

J. E. Losie, Monvel P.O. — S.E. 30-41-19-w4.

Soren Waggaby, Willow Springs, Mo. — S.W. 30-41-19-w4.

C. W. Buckmaster, Monvel P.O. — N.W. 30-41-19-w4.

E. E. Heater, Monvel P.O. — S.E. 32-41-19-w4.

F. Wilson, Whitebrush P.O. — S.W. 32-41-19-w4.

Peter Williams, Whitebrush P.O. — S.W. 32-41-19-w4.

A. P. Grant, Whitebrush P.O. — N.W. 32-41-19-w4.

Hammarberg, Harker P.O. — S.E. 4-42-19-w4.

C. N. Van Dyke, Harker P.O. — S.W. 4-42-19-w4.

Mary Todd, Monvel P.O. — N.E. 4-42-19-w4.

Leo Holifer, Harker P.O. — N.W. 4-42-19-w4.

Geo. Ulyett, Whitebrush, — S.E. 6-42-19-w4.

T. Ulyett, Whitebrush, — N.E. 6-42-19-w4.

Louis Judd, Whitebrush, — S.W. 6-42-19-w4.
G. R. Vasey, Whitebrush, — N.W. 6-42-19-w4.
F. E. Hanline, Harker P.O. — N.W. 10-19-w4.
Wm. Casebeer, Harker P.O. — S.W. 10-42-19-w4.

Oscar Johnson, Lamerton, — S.E. 16-42-19-w4.
Olaf Johnson, Lamerton, — S.W. 16-42-19-w4.
O. M. Anderson, Edensville, — S.E. 18-42-19-w4.

J. I. Streberg, Edensville, — S.W. 18-42-19-w4.

The remaining land in the district was C.P.R. land and the address was Winnipeg. By 1914, smaller post offices had been closed and the mail came to Donalda, Bashaw and Meeting Creek.



Buena Vista Green Peaches: Elna Sallstrom, Marjorie Lee, Alice Lee, Vera Sallstrom, Ruth Green, Margaret Dahl, Lottie Lee, Mary Heater.

The school opened in 1908. The first teacher was Mr. Knull. The first pupils were: Ed Heaters — Ernest, Jake, Mabel, Roy and Clyde; John Strebergs — Aleda, Adela, Segrid and Carl; O. M. Anderson — Anna and Harvey; C. N. Van Dykes — Herman, Grace and Madge; Hammarbergs — Eric.

Buena Vista closed in 1950. At that time the teacher was Miss N. Johnson. The pupils were; Harry Green — Jean and Eddy; Ordges — Jim and Lilly; Dahls — Shirley and Rodney; Elmer Hagens — Joyce; Conibears — Beth, Bobbie and Jimmie. The children were all bussed to Meeting Creek except Ordges who went to Donalda.

Buena Vista was the scene of many varied activities. It was used as a church and Sunday School classes were also held there. The congregation was quite large and all took part in the classes. Mrs. Ed Lee was the first Sunday School Superintendent and Mrs. Green was the first Sunday School teacher. The first ministers were Rev. Brooks and Rev. Simons. Mr. Ed Green was in charge of the sports (ball, skating, and local stampedes). Laurie Williams helped with the church and school programs, helped with sports, and usually led the singing. George

Ulyett was school trustee, auctioneer for pie, box, and shadow socials and the Harvest Festival Sale held at the school every fall. He also was square dance caller at the school dances. Court was also held in the school.

In 1943, Jack Rider and Alma Hammarberg were married in the school.

During the first world war, Buena Vista had a very active Red Cross Society. In 1932 a Ladies' Aid was formed. Every summer the Ladies' Aid held a Sports Day, and many a freezer of ice cream was made for this. In winter they always held an Auction Social, selling all the sewing and knitting made by members. The Aid carried on until all Ladies' Aid groups in Alberta were amalgamated as United Church Women.

In the early days the school picnic was held on the First of July at Hines beach. People came for a long way for this. There were ball games, races, pole vault, catch the greasy pig, and walk the greasy pole. This pole, instead of being upright, was extended about twenty feet out over the water horizontally. The Hines Hall was built on the shore of Buffalo Lake. It was a log building and had a very nice dance floor. During the dry years the shore line of the lake receded leaving the picnic grounds and the hall on dry land so to speak and it was abandoned in favor of Boss Hill.

C. W. Buckmaster

Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Buckmaster with son Frank, and a daughter who was married and lived in Stettler, homesteaded the N.W. 30-41-19-W4 from 1908 until 1912 when the land was purchased by L. F. Williams.

Frank Buckmaster was a fancy dresser. When he went to the dances he always tied his oxfords with blue ribbons.

Patrick Cavanaugh

He was an Irishman who purchased the S.W. 34-41-19-w4 in 1912 from Conrad Larson. He was a bachelor. He passed away at the home of his neighbor, L. T. Krumm in 1917. He was buried in the Donalda cemetery.

Wm. Casebeer Family

Wm. Casebeer homesteaded S.W. 10-42-19-w4. In 1909 it became listed as Wm. Casebeer Estate, and was taxed as such until 1919 when it was purchased by Mr. E. H. Green.

Ethel and Carl Casebeer attended Buena Vista school. Ethel is now Mrs. E. Batten of Didsbury. Earl Casebeer and his family live in Seattle Washington, U.S.A.

The Harry Conibear Family

Harry Conibear came to Canada from Wales in 1928. He worked for the C.N.R. for a year and then worked for a farmer near View Point. He then went to Edmonton and later returned to the Donalda district. Harry married Alice Lee in October, 1934. In 1936 they bought N.E. 36-41-19 from the estate of Mr. Wm. Dawe. They are still living there at the present time.



Harry Conibear Family, 1958: Alice, Harry and Melody, Jim Beth and Bob.

Alice and Harry have four children. Beth, the oldest daughter, has six children. Bob, the oldest son, has two children. Jim, who has come home to farm the home place, has two children and two step-children. Melody, the youngest daughter, has one child.

Beth, Bob and Jim attended Buena Vista School, Jim being in grade one when it closed in 1950. They were then bussed to Meeting Creek School. Bob and Jim attended high school in Donalda. Melody went to school in Donalda and in Stettler.

The Clarence Dahl Family

Clarence married Hjordis Carlson on November 5, 1928. Clarence and Hjordis commenced farming on N.E. 8-41-19-w4. which was located two miles north of the Buena Vista school. Their first home was a small three room dwelling.

In 1929 their first son Lloyd was born. A second son Gordon was born in 1931. A third son Henry arrived in 1932. In 1937 a daughter Shirley joined the family. A fourth son Rodney was born in 1940.

Clarence bought the Leonard Sallstrom farm in



Clarence Dahl Family: Standing — Gordon, Lloyd, Henry, Shirley. Seated — Clarence, Rodney and Hjordis.

1944. This farm was located two miles north of the Buena Vista corner. Clarence and his three older sons farmed three quarters with horses until 1946, at which time he commenced farming with the traditional 15-30 International steel wheel tractor.

Lloyd Dahl worked for various farmers in the district in the late forties. He ventured west in 1947 and worked in the lumber industry in Port Moody; B.C. for five years. On September 23, 1952 Lloyd married Lillian Brunsch at New Westminster, B.C. To this union two daughters, Karyn and LouAnn and a son Garry were born. Lloyd worked in government service with the Department of Corrections in B.C. and N.W.T. for twenty-one years and with the Department of Information for four years. In 1978 Lloyd and family moved back to his home province Alberta and now lives at Alix. Lloyd had a keen interest in music from early childhood and played in a band for eighteen years.

On April 10, 1953 Gordon Dahl married Loverna Halseth. To this marriage two daughters, Darlene and Cheryl, and two sons, Stanley and Deryl, were raised. Gordon and Loverna farmed the Halseth place which is located fifteen miles southeast of Donalda. Before Gordon took up farming he worked in the lumber industry in Port Moody, B.C. and Calgary for four years. Sorrow touched the family when Gordon passed away in January of 1979. Loverna continues to farm. Gordon and family were active in the 4-H clubs and collectively won many trophies.

Henry Dahl married Gladys Awe in June of 1957. Their family consists of Theresa, Duane, Bradley and Brian. Henry purchased the Jensen farm located six and a half miles south of Donalda. Unlike his brothers Lloyd and Rodney, Henry made farming a full-time career. Henry, Gladys and family are very active in 4-H and curling and have many trophies to show for their efforts.

Shirley Dahl married Alex Salmon in July 1956. They have four sons; Grant, Brent, Danny and Barry. Shirley and Alex make their home on the Salmon Ranch which is located seven miles west and three miles south of Donalda S.W. 25-41-19-w4. Shirley was employed by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Donalda for two and a half years. Alex is a well known musician and an excellent sax player and has been in a band since 1946. Shirley is also musically inclined and she enjoys singing and playing the accordion. She is also an excellent homemaker and gardener.

Rodney Dahl married Diane Maxwell in May 1960. Rodney and Diane have three sons Kevin, Martin, Robin and one daughter Karrie. Rodney was employed by the Government of B.C. for one year, was in the Calgary Police Force for five years and was a Park Warden for five years. From 1969 to date, he has been working in various positions in the Gas and Oil Industry. Rodney is also a musician and played in a band for a time. He is also an avid hunter.

Lloyd, Gordon and Henry attended school at Buena Vista. Shirley and Rodney attended school at Buena Vista for eight years and continued their high school at Meeting Creek.

Clarence purchased his first family automobile in 1930. It was a very fancy vehicle in those days, a 1929 Chev. One summer day in 1938, his son Lloyd decided to drive his dad's car while his parents were away visiting the neighbors. Lloyd managed to put the vehicle in motion but when it came to stopping that was a different matter; consequently he came to a stop by running it smack into a haystack. To say the least, father was annoyed when he returned home. However, he was very forgiving and no punishment was awarded.

Hjordis Dahl was well known for raising large flocks of turkeys each year. The turkeys were butchered and dressed each fall and sold to buyers in Meeting Creek. Killing and dressing turkeys entailed a great deal of work so good friends of the family Seth and Vanja Bergstrom and their son Alvin and Ruby always helped out and the Dahl family would assist the Bergstroms with their birds.

Speaking of 'turkeys', Hjordis and Vanja were well known for their fine birds and one fall they

delivered their flock for selling, the buyer advised them that the only way they could improve their birds would be to raise them with four legs. After a bit of scheming, Hjordis and Vanja decided to produce a four legged bird. They carefully removed the wings from one of the culls (C bird) and skillfully sewed on two legs in the wing joints. They also painted the toe nails on all four feet a bright red. They presented this spectacular specimen to the buyers and received a Grade "A" for it. The buyer was so impressed with the bird that it was put on display in Edmonton for two weeks.

Clarence and Hjordis sold their farm in 1962 and moved to Donalda. They lived in Donalda until March of 1970. At this time the family was greatly saddened when their mother passed away.

Clarence stayed with his son Henry and family for a period of time and in 1972 he moved to Bashaw and lived with his brothers Oscar and Roy.

Since 1974, Clarence has resided at Heart Haven Senior Citizens Home. He celebrated his 84th birthday on August 21, 1979 and is still driving his car and enjoying good health.

Clarence is well known in the Donalda district for playing his accordion at various school and house dances.

There are presently nineteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild in the Clarence Dahl family.

Martin Dahl Family

Martin Dahl was born October 3, 1864, at Vardal, Norway. He emigrated to the United States of America when he was nineteen years old. Martha Nelson was born in Lela Hamer, Norway, March 1, 1870. They met and married in Grand Forks, North Dakota in April, 1893.

The Dahls had four children while living in the United States. They moved to Canada, settling in the New Norway district. Two years later they moved to Doreenlee, where Mr. Dahl took up a homestead. Due to crop failure (froze-out a few years) the family decided to move. Mr. Dahl had been supplementing the farm income by operating a harness and repair shop in Camrose. This had been his trade in Norway. In 1911 they moved to the Donalda district, living eight miles north west of Donalda. The family lived with the Ed Hagen family while Mr. Dahl built a house. By this time they had a family of seven children: Oscar, Clarence, Morris, Minnie, Mabel, Roy and Selma.

Mr. Dahl and his sons, Oscar and Clarence, dug a well by hand, pulling the dirt up with a bucket on a rope. They built a log cow barn and chicken house with sod roofs. Mrs. Dahl made their laundry soap



Martin Dahl Family

out of fat and lye. She also made four kinds of cheese.

The children walked three miles to the Buena Vista School, until the Hazel Grove School was built. The Hazel Grove School was a mile closer. Mr. Knull taught school at Buena Vista, and his wife taught at Hazel Grove.

In 1913 Mr. Dahl built a lumber horse barn with a shingled roof. The family's only transportation for a few years was a wagon and bob-sleigh. Later they bought a democrat (two-seated buggy) and a cutter for winter use.

The Dahls raised a large garden which included some tame fruit and berries. In 1912 the family all had the flu except Morris, who was overseas at the time, and Mr. Dahl cared for the family. The only medicine was brandy in hot water and mustard plasters. Everyone recovered.

The Dahl family had skating and coasting parties. They had a merry-go-round, and would build a bonfire on the ice. There were numerous dances at Buena Vista School, with Clarence Dahl and George Ulyett supplying the music.

In the winter the family hauled, sawed and split an entire year's supply of wood. They also sawed ice blocks and hauled them to fill the ice house for summer use. There was lots of home-made ice cream on Sundays.

The family's neighbors to the north were Willie and Charlie Melin and their families; to the west were the O. M. Andersons, the Strebergs and the John Bergstroms. Neighbors to the east were Ed Hagen, Victor Johnsons and Elis Johnsons. To the south were A. Norman, Lars Dahl, Claude Stowell, and the Hammarberg families.

Mabel married Ernest Emery in December, 1921; they had four children. Minnie married Willie Core in December 1923 and had a family of five. Selma married Everett Hagan in April 1927; they had four

children. Clarence married Hjordis Carlson in November 1928; they had five children. Morris married Anna Magneson in April, 1933; they had seven children.

Mrs. Martin (Martha) Dahl passed away in September of 1946. Mr. Martin Dahl passed away in March of 1952; Oscar in October, 1970; Morris in June, 1976, and Roy in March 1977. Clarence lives in the Heart Haven Home in Stettler, Alberta. Minnie lives in Rimbey, Alberta, and Mabel lives in Calgary, Alberta. Selma and Everett Hagan live in Camrose, Alberta. Mr. Gus Lindstrom now owns the Dahl farm.

The Morris Dahl Family

Morris Dahl married Anna Magnesen in 1933. For several years they lived in Edberg. From there they moved to the Gulbrunson place, and then to the Buena Vista district. Morris later retired to Bashaw and passed away in 1976. Anna now lives in Edmonton.

To this marriage seven children were born. Ina married Allan Selin, a warehouse worker. They have two children and live in Edmonton. Selma married Allan Hoven, an A.G.T. engineer. They have three children and live in Edmonton. Alvin, a school maintenance man, married Audrey Price. They have two children and live in Edmonton. Arnold, a meat-cutter by trade, married Matilda Bazinet. They have twins and also reside in Edmonton. Blaine, a landscaper, married Marilyn Hubka. They have one son and live at Airdrie. Carol married Roman Jahns, a Forestburg farmer, and they have one child. Dianna married Willard Turner who is a mail-courier at Vernon, B.C., and they have three children.

When the Morris Dahl family moved to the Buena Vista district the five oldest children walked to Buena Vista School for one school term. Then Buena Vista closed and they were taken to Meeting Creek School by bus.

Lars and Borghild Dahl

Lars Dahl was born on November 11, 1876 in Shaak, Gudbrandsdalen, Norway, the son of Theodore and Cary Dahl. He immigrated to the United States of America on March 23, 1902, to work on the railroad. He came to Camrose, Alberta in 1905 to work as a stonemason in that area. In 1907 he took up his homestead in the Buena Vista district; being five miles west and a half mile north of Donald, where he had a mixed farm, supplementing his income with his mason work, sawing wood and ice and delivering it to the near-by towns.

Mrs. Dahl was born on August 26, 1891 in Var-



Mr. and Mrs. Lars Dahl and Family, 1929: Standing — Elmer, Theodore, Margaret, Harry, Evelyn, Myrtle. Seated — Lars Dahl and Bernice, Mrs. Dahl and Edna.

dal, Norway, the eldest daughter of Hans and Anna Dalen. In 1909 she immigrated to Canada, coming to her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hagen, in the Meeting Creek district. There she helped out with all the farm chores and also worked as domestic help for several of the families in that area.

On September 3, 1910, she was united in marriage to Mr. Dahl. A large at home wedding was planned by her aunt who also made the wedding dress, and they were married in her aunt and uncle's home. After much celebration they moved to their new home which had been built by Mr. Dahl.

Here their eleven children were born. Mrs. Oberg, the mid-wife, delivered all the children except the three youngest. Dr. Jackson was then the doctor at Donald and was in charge when the second youngest and the twins were born, but all the children were born at home.

Their family is as follows; Harry lives at home with his mother and farms with his brother, Elmer.

Theodore married Edna Pearson and they are now retired on their farm five miles west of Donald. They have two children, David at home and Iris, Mrs. Ray Tornack of Edmonton. Iris and Ray have a son and a daughter.

Myrtle married Sven Norman (retired) and they have one son, Douglas. They live on their farm north of Stettler. Douglas is married and has a son and a daughter.

Margaret married Sam Todd. Both Margaret and Sam are deceased. They have two sons, Lorne, on the Todd home place, and Donald of Red Deer. Lorne is married and has two sons.

Evelyn married Raymon Ulyett and they have one son, Steve, and two daughters, Valerie and Wendy. Evelyn and Ray are managers of the Essex House Apartments, Edmonton.

Elmer married Laura Estacaille, and lives on his father's farm, which he and Harry operate. Elmer and Laura have eight children: Norman, Donna, Wayne, Larry, Lori, Terry, Jimmy, and Shelly.

Bernice married Clifford Lillemo who is a book-keeper in Edmonton. They have four children; Judy, Linda, Dale and Doreen.

Edna married Gerald Lindstrom and they are semi-retired, living on their farm west of Donalda.

Irene, Mrs. Carl Wilson, lives in Red Deer. Carl is employed by Dowell of Canada. Irene and Carl have two children, Keith and Gwen.

Ida, married Elliott Carlson and lives in Camrose. They have three children. Elliot is employed by the Wheat Pool.



Lars Dahl Twins — Ida and Irene.

All the farming was done with horses in those early days. The farmers tried to get enough work with the municipality to work out some of their taxes and Mr. Dahl was one of the road foremen.

Travelling was done by horse drawn lumber wagon, buggy, and later Bennett buggy. In 1929 Mr. Dahl bought a Model T Ford from a neighbor August Nilson.

The food was mostly home grown. Mrs. Dahl, assisted by the family always had a large garden and

gathered gallons of wild fruit to make jams, etc. They had their own meat and eggs and ground their own grain for flour and cereal. Sometimes they roasted wheat and ground it to make coffee.

The clothes were mostly homemade, sometimes made over from old clothes, and wool was spun for all the home-knitted garments. Raw wool was sent away to be made into blankets, and quilts were home-made, being filled with batts made from carded raw wool.

The water supply was from the cistern in summer — rain water — and in winter ice was cut from the sloughs, melted and used for drinking, washing, etc. Snow was also melted and used extensively.

Soap was also made from tallow and lard from fat derived when farm animals were butchered. The meat from these animals was preserved by canning — usually in quart sealers processed for three hours on a wooden rack in the wash boiler, or salted and packed in brine, or smoked.

Doctor Jackson was the doctor in those early days. Mrs. Oberg of Meeting Creek was one of the mid-wives, Mrs. Willie Melin and Mrs. Andrew Norman helped out in the home after the birth of the babies.

Some of the closest neighbors were: George Ulyett, Tom Ulyett, Andrew Hammarbergs, Silverwhips, Van Dykes, Ed Greens, Ed Lees, Claude Stowells, Walt Persingers, Andrew Normans, Laurie Williams, Jake Heaters, Ed Heaters, Stewarts, Mr. Morgan, Krumms, Wallaces, Ed. Hagens, Martin Dahls, John Lindstroms, Carlsons, Louis Judd, Jim Losie.

Mr. Dahl passed away November 24, 1959, at the age of 83 years.

Mrs. Dahl still lives in her farm home. She does most of her own work and enjoys life — her flowers and house plants, her children, her twenty-five grandchildren, and her great grandchildren, and all who call on her to visit.

Mr. and Mrs. William (Bill) Dawe by Catherine (Kitty) Pearce

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Dawe, came to Donalda in March 1921 from Springfield, Massachusetts and lived on the Graffunder farm next to Walter Durand. Their other neighbor was Dad Winter. Then they moved to Charlie Batke farm one mile west and two miles north of Donalda. In 1927 they bought a farm out by Buena Vista, west and south of Donalda. Harry Conibear later bought the farm. They were very good friends of Ed Lee, Ed Green and the Laurie Williams family who were their neighbors.



Mrs. Ed. Lee, Francis Lee, Mrs. Bill Dawe.

Mr. Dawe died in 1937 and was buried in Donalda Cemetery. Mrs. Dawe died in 1943 and was buried beside her husband.

Mother was quite active in the United Church and the Women's Institute, and also did a lot of knitting for the Red Cross in the Second World War.

After Dad died, Mother moved to Donalda and lived next door to the Murphys. She also took in high school girls to board while they attended school in Donalda.

Gus Lindstrom told me when he was a little boy he would hide in the bush and wait for my Dad to go up the hill, and when Dad got half-way up the hill, Gus would holler, "Whoa" and the horses would stop. Dad never did know who stopped them. Of course this made a lot of fun for Gus, but Dad didn't see any fun in it.

Ernest and Victoria Edwards

Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, he a semi-invalid dental surgeon of World War I and she a sister of Andrew Norman, came to Buena Vista district about 1917 with their two daughters Margaret and June.

They bought the east half of N.E. 27-41-19-w4, which P. Abrahamson had owned. In 1920 they bought the S.E. 3-42-19-w4 which had been owned by John McCabe. In 1924 they moved to Newton, B.C. Mr. Edwards passed away some years later and Mrs. Edwards remarried, becoming Mrs. Hood. She is still living and resides in Vancouver. Her daughter June is deceased but Margaret and her family live in the Vancouver area.

Emil Erickson

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Erickson came from Sweden in 1903 or 1904. They homestead N.W. 34-41-19-w4. They had one daughter Emma. They left Buena Vista district in 1918 and moved to Wetaskiwin. The land was farmed by Andrew Norman, who lived there until 1922 when the Normans moved to the Hazel Grove district and the S.E. 34-41-19-w4 was purchased by Harry Wallace.

Mr. and Mrs. Eddy Green Sr.

taken from "Fifty Years on the Coulee Rim"

Mr. Eddy Green emigrated from Oregon in 1902 with his wife and two sons, Roy of Spokane and Afton of Bashaw. Two daughters Itha Steinhoff of Donalda and Ruth Robinson of Erskine, as well as two more sons, Harry, now deceased of Stettler and Albert, also deceased, were Canadian born under the care of an elderly midwife named Mrs. Hunter.

The family settled in what is now the Meeting Creek district. Mr. Green's interest was cattle raising but with the advent of more settlers, extensive ranching gave way to mixed farming. Being a carpenter by trade, Mr. Green was often asked to do a bit of building, one such construction project being the Stockholm school southwest of Edberg. For this



Eddy H. Green Family, 1943 — Ruth, Albert, Roy, Afton, Itha, Eddy Green, Harry and Mrs. Green.

work, he received the magnificent sum of \$150.00. Most of the construction had to take place during weather of twenty degrees below zero. A casket was also built by Mr. Green for a Mr. Preston who had come to the prairies in hopes of regaining his health but succumbed to the rugged life.

Having never seen a muskrat in Oregon, Mr. Green was introduced to trapping as a supplement to a meagre income by Mr. George LaRose, the Green's first neighbor, lifelong friend, Eddy Green often recalled the time he hauled his few belongings

from Wetaskiwin by lumber wagon. He passed through Mr. LaRose's yard and stopped to exchange greetings. His new neighbor offered to assist in the building of the new homestead. This sincere friendship and helpfulness was indicative of early pioneer life.

Early ministers served this area from Red Willow and later from Donalda. Since the trip was long for one day, the ministers frequently stayed at the Green home where many a good sing song was held. Following the Sunday service, they returned home after a hearty dinner.

In 1921 the Greens moved to the Buena Vista district, taking up residence on the N.W. 28-41-19-w4. Here they were active in mixed farming and community activities until 1948. They then moved to Erskine with Ruth and lived there until their deaths in 1950 and 1952.

Albert Green married Madeline Streberg in 1932. For two or three years they lived on the N.E. 29-41-19-w4 near where Eddy Green Jr. now resides. They then moved to her parents place until Albert went into the ministry. Albert and Madeline are now both deceased. They had two children.

Harry Green Family

Harry, the second youngest member of the Eddy H. and Hannah Green family was born at Meeting Creek on February 24, 1908. He moved with his family to the Buena Vista district in 1921 and they lived on the N.W. 33-41-19-w4. His schooling was taken at Buena Vista and Donalda. School buses or vans were not a common means of conveyance at this time so the trips to Donalda were made by way of two wheeled cart, buggy or on horseback. Many of the horses used were not too well broke and this made for some unforgettable adventures and repairs to equipment. Rules set forth by the schools were much different from those of the present time as Harry and some of his classmates discovered when they engaged in a friendly game of cards and were promptly expelled. Following school Harry farmed with his father.

Bessie was born on February 2, 1908 at Innisfail, the daughter of James and Mary Jane Wilson. Shortly after she started school, her family moved to the Hackett district south east of Stettler and in 1916 to the town of Stettler where she finished her schooling. Following a year at the Camrose Normal School, Bessie's career as a teacher brought her to Buena Vista where she met Harry and they were married in 1930. Their first home was on the S.W. 7-42-19-W4 which was purchased from George Ulyett.

Three children were born here, Isabel in 1931,

Jean in 1933 and Eddy in 1936, all of whom attended school at Buena Vista. The distance of four miles was made by horseback, through good weather and bad not many days being missed. Observing the many wonders of nature presented by the changing seasons helped to pass the time on the long trips to and from school.

In 1948 the family moved to the N.E. 29-41-19-w4. Isabel went to Stettler for High School, Jean also for grade ten and then she and Eddy were bused to Meeting Creek.

Harry Green was one of the instigators in forming the Up To Date Power Company in 1950.

Isabel married George Kerl of Botha in 1957 and they have two daughters Doris Anne and Cindy.

Jean married Fred Lindstrom from Meeting Creek in 1953 and they have two children, Darrel and Brenda and now live in Stettler.

Eddy married Vera Martynuk from Saskatchewan in 1962 and they have three children: Douglas, Deborah and Murray.

Harry and Bessie moved into an apartment in Stettler in the fall of 1969. Harry passed away in 1970 and Bessie continues to make her home there. Eddy and family now live on the home place.

Edward Heater

From Fifty Years on the Coulee Rim

Edward E. Heater was endowed with a strong pioneering spirit, and in 1898 he left Ohio through Indian territories to the State of Iowa. Ed really had his sights on Canada but his wife, Mary Lyst, imagined only Eskimos and Indians lived there. A compromise was reached and the family came north to Washington. Now, within one hundred miles of the Canadian border, Ed. knew he would eventually get Mary to Canada, and he did four years later.

After renting a farm near Wetaskiwin and harvesting one crop, Heaters set out for their homestead near Buffalo Lake on December 1, 1906. This was the notorious "Winter of the Deep Snow" and it was sixty degrees below zero when the pioneers reached their homestead.

One other family lived nearby that first winter, the VanDykes from Iowa. Mail came in once a week to the Whitebrush P.O., twelve miles away. Trips to Stettler with wagon and team took all day, starting before daylight, but watching a prairie sunrise at early dawn was a sight never to be forgotten. A winter's supply of groceries was laid in early; flour and sugar in 100-lb. bags (100 pounds flour per month for the Heater family); rolled oats in fifty pound bags; prunes and raisins in twenty pound



Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Heater.

boxes. Meat supply came from the farm or from wildlife.

Every year more acreage was added to crop cultivation. A yoke of oxen hitched to a breaking plow with Ed. Heater driving, plowed a furrow as straight as any modern day tractor. Soon more people came and a school was needed. Ed took an active part in promoting plans, and with Ed Lee, helped suggest the name of Buena Vista for the school. By this time, a new excitement was gathering force with rumors of a railroad coming through. Number one news topic of the day was how far the rails had been laid!

One winter while Ed and Mary went to Iowa for a visit, their home burned. Neighbors helped them to re-establish on a new farm. Gradually, the children

left home and Ed. was still going strong at the age of seventy-five when he retired from farming. He died in his 94th year (1960), Mary having predeceased him by ten years.

Two of the children, Ernest and Roy, died while young. Jake married Segred Streberg, and their story is recorded in this district's history. Mabel married J. E. "Jarv" Hutchinson, who until 1915 farmed S.E. 28-41-19-w4. They lived on the north shore of scenic Hutchinson Lake. Jarv. is deceased and Mabel lives in Vancouver. Clyde married Nola Tucker and they lived in the Donalda district for many years. Clyde has passed away and Nola resides in Bashaw. Phyllis married Elis Johnson and they and their son Arnold farmed north-west of Donalda until they sold the farm and moved to Bashaw.

Jacob Heater

Jacob E. Heater, who was born in Iowa in 1892, came to Alberta with his parents and settled on a farm near Wetaskiwin in 1905. A year later he came to the Buena Vista district where his father, Edward, homesteaded. In those times the closest school in the area was Skybo, six miles away and attendance was mainly during the winter months because Jake helped at home during the spring and fall. He helped supplement the family income by trapping muskrats and hunting wild game, both of which were very plentiful. He loved big game hunting and found time for it almost every year.

In 1916, Jake married Segred Streberg, who was born in Sweden in 1900 and came to Alberta at the age of two. They settled in a new home that Jake built



Sawing Lumber at Jake Heaters.

on the farm now owned by Penny LaRose. Five children blessed this union.

During the early years land was cleared by hand and the large logs were sawn into lumber on a saw-mill that Jake had built. Many neighbors brought their logs to the mill, where all worked together. Threshing was also done on a co-operative basis. Jake owned one of the first machines in the country and travelled from farm to farm to thresh the stacks of grain. One year it took seventy-four days to complete the task.

Jake was the local municipal councillor for many years. His dream was that the road past the farm would someday be an all-weather road. He also served on the local church board which was responsible for church services at Buena Vista.

In 1943 Jake retired from farming and moved to Ponoka where he worked as an attendant in the Alberta Hospital until he was sixty-five years of age and forced to retire. He then went to work as a caretaker at the cemetery until his death at the age of seventy-three in 1965, Segred having predeceased him by three years.

Two of the children, Harold and Marion are deceased. Harold's wife, Vivian and four children, Doris, Harold, Jean and Donald live in central Alberta. Milton married Margaret Coppick and lives in Donalda. Their two children, Linda and Rodney reside in the Okanagan. Mary married Ray Fitzpatrick and lives in Camrose. Their children live in various places in Alberta; Gail (Vermilion), Sharon (Camrose), and Rhonda (Spruce Grove). Elmer married Grace Smith and they, with their children Wanda, Susan, Jim, Marilyn, Trudy and Leslie live in Calgary.

The Hammarbergs

by Astrid Rider

Andras (Andrew) Hammarberg and his wife, Katharina Matilda, emigrated from Sunsvaal, Sweden. They arrived in Wetaskiwin September 7, 1907. They stayed at Andrew's brother Peter's place at New Norway that fall. Andrew helped with the harvest. After harvest he filed on the S.E. 4-42-19-W4. During the winter Andrew walked forty miles to his homestead which was four miles west of what is now Donalda. He cut logs and put up a house.

In May Andrew, Katharina and the children, Eric who was seven years old and Anna who was five, left in a wagon for the homestead. They were expecting their third child. When about five miles from the homestead — at the Willie Melin place — they had to stop and their daughter, Agnes was born. Andrew continued on to the homestead and left his family at



Mrs. K. M. Hammarberg.

Melins. In a couple of weeks he went back and brought them to the homestead.

They arrived at the homestead with five dollars in their pocket, a cow which they bought on time, and an axe. Andrew cleared and made a place for a garden around a large tree, not far from the back door. Even though it was crude, the house was home — the first they'd ever owned. In Sweden they had only rented because Andrew's work had been blasting the rocks and trees making way for the road construction; so the family had moved a lot.

They were able to get a few chickens. There were many partridge, prairie chicken, and ducks which Andrew was able to snare. Wild berries were plenti-



The Hammarbergs, 1923: Agnes, Erik, Anna and Arthur, Alma, Astrid, Katherina (Mother), Andreas (Dad), Olga and August.

ful. Andrew helped the neighbors and they broke land for him.

Alma, Astrid, August, Olga, and the twins, Elvira and Ellen, were born on the homestead. The twins died when very tiny, during the 1919 flu epidemic.

In those days the countryside was covered with wild roses. The mosquitoes were so thick that many times a person couldn't tell the color of the animal he drove.

Andrew died in 1935. He and his wife made a good home for the family, the house was always filled with visitors. Katharina died in 1963.

Eric took a homestead at Buck Lake, but later moved to Edmonton, where he married Harriet. Eric died in 1964. They had no children, but Harriet had a son and a daughter by a previous marriage. Harriet still lives in Edmonton.

Anna went to British Columbia to keep house for Uncle Peter. His wife had died and he had moved to British Columbia. Later Anna married George Moore and they had three sons, Arthur, Donald and Victor. Anna died in 1970. George is dead and Anna's second husband, Neil, is also dead.

Agnes went to St. Catharines, Ontario. While holidaying she met Cyril Bennett. They were married and had a son and a daughter. Cyril passed away but Agnes still lives in St. Catharines.

Alma and Astrid married Jack and Percy Rider and their history is recorded under "The Riders" in the Skybo district.

August married Marjorie Cram and they had two boys and two girls. Paul and his family are in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Gay married George Peterson, and when George was employed in Iran by an oil company, Gay and their family lived in Greece. When trouble broke out there, George was transferred to Singapore, where they are at present. Lynne and her family lived in Edmonton. Aaron lives at Kitimat.

Olga married Tom Reay from Matlock district. They had two sons, Gordon and Marvin, and two daughters, Grace and Paulette. Gordon lives at Fort Saskatchewan with his family. The others are in British Columbia. Tom and Olga, after various moves now live in the town of Ponoka.

In 1933 Pauline Stenerson came to live with us. Her mother had died leaving five small children. Relatives took the other children. Pauline was then eight years old. She stayed until she was sixteen and then went to St. Catharines to work in a munitions factory. When she was eighteen, she joined the Canadian Women's Army Corp (C.W.A.C.). She now lives in Calgary.



August Hammarberg Family — Paul, Aaron, Lynne, Gay.

Grandpa Nilson, Katharina's father, came from Sweden in 1917 because mother and her two brothers, Karl and John were all in Canada. Grandpa retired, living on a railway pension. I can remember him giving Olga and I each a shin plaster (paper 25¢) when he had cashed his cheque and we certainly thought we were rich. He stayed with us until his death on New Year's Day, 1928.

In 1936 when Aunt Sena, Uncle Karl's wife, went to the sanitorium in Calgary, Mamma kept Gordon, aged two, and Bob, aged four. They stayed with us for two and a half years until Aunt Sena was able to come home.

When the Hammarbergs first came, there was still a lot of ranching so there were not many fences. Often the cows would wander for miles until Dad got the quarter section enclosed. Once when they got with Ed. Lees' range cattle he helped get them out with his dog. Mamma said all he had to do was point to a cow if he wanted it out of the herd and the dog would bring it out. Mamma was never one to waste her time. When she went for the cows she walked, and always carried her knitting with her.

After Dad passed away Eric stayed home and farmed the land. Then Eric went back to Buck Lake to homestead and the home place was taken over by August. When August and Marjorie Cram were married Mamma had a small house built in the yard. She lived in it until 1947 or '48 when she bought a lot in Donalds and had her house moved onto it. She lived there until she died in 1963.

Louis Judd

Louis Judd, from Switzerland, homesteaded S.W. 6-42-19-w4. He built a log house with a sod roof. He always kept it neat and tidy. When the land

was surveyed it was found that the house was in the middle of the road allowance, but before 1908 there weren't many road allowances.

Louis had a lovely black team of drivers. He also had a top buggy, a one seater. With his drivers hitched to it it was a very impressive sight as it was the only top buggy in the district.

When Louis went to Donalds he usually returned home about the time the children were going home from school. He always stopped to visit and share a sack of candy with them.

South east of his house the saskatoons grew profusely and some of the children would visit him after they had been berry picking. He always had a cookie or some candy and some interesting stories to tell.

The L. F. Krumm Family

Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Krumm came from the States about 1904. They homesteaded N.E. 34-41-19-w4. They had eight children; Charles, Erma, Russell, Lyle, George, Leslie, Doris and Winnifred, all born on the homestead.

Mr. Krumm did much of his farming with oxen. The family left Buena Vista in the early 1920's.

W. E. and Lottie Lee

W. E. (Ed) Lee was born in Iowa, U.S.A. in 1872. He was a school teacher and taught in Iowa, North Dakota, and Oregon. The year after he taught school in Oregon he joined the U.S. Army and served in the Spanish American War. He was in active in the Phillipines during the war. Afterwards he spent 6 months or more in a hospital in San Francisco with Malaria Fever. On being discharged from hospital he was advised to live in the open air so he decided to

move to Alberta. He bought cattle on shares and ranches at first, spending one year near Lacombe and later moving to the Buena Vista district where he and the co-owner of the cattle built some ranch buildings north east of where he later homesteaded. He came to Alberta about 1903 and about 1905 homesteaded N.W. 28-41-10. About a year later his father came to homestead also. He filed on the NE 28-41-19. There they built a house on his father's quarter and a barn on his quarter. It was legal for both a father and a son to acquire homesteads if the son lived with the father.

In 1910 Willie Klemme worked for Ed Lee. He said that every week Ed received a letter from a Miss Lottie Moats in Iowa and nearly every week Ed mailed a letter to her. In 1911 Ed took a trip to Saskatchewan to visit friends. Much to everyone's surprise he came back a married man. He and Lottie had met at her brothers place in Saskatchewan and were married there.

Mr. Lee served as secretary of Buena Vista School for many years and was councillor during the depression.

Miss Lottie Moats taught school for twelve years in Iowa and Nebraska before coming to Canada. She began teaching at the age of 18 and taught school in the district in Iowa where Wesley and John Clements' parents lived. One of her older pupils was Wesley Clement. One of Mrs. Lee's life-long friends was Mrs. John Clements, Wesley's sister-in-law.



Standing: Mrs. Ed. Lee, Mrs. John Clement, Mrs. Ed. Heater, Valeta Clement. Seated: Mr. Ed. Heater, Mr. John Clement.



Ed. Lee Family, 1919. Left to right — Lottie, Mrs. Lee, Alice, Mr. Lee, Florence, Wilbur and Francis.

Mrs. Lee always raised a large garden and canned quantities of wild fruit — saskatoons, raspberries and even gooseberries. She delighted in making quilts. She learned to knit after she was married and knitted many socks, sweaters and mittens for the family and others. She was a faithful member of the Methodist (later United) Church. She played the piano at the

Buena Vista services and was for many years Sunday School Superintendent. She was also a member of the Buena Vista Ladies Aid.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee had seven children all born in the house on N.E. 28-41-19-w4. The children are as follows; Alice, now Mrs. Harry Conibear, has four children, ten grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and one great-grandchild; Lottie, Mrs. M. Hanson, has three children and five grandchildren; Florence, Mrs. C. W. Pool, has four children and three grandchildren; Francis, who has twelve children and four grandchildren; Wilbur, killed in a plane crash in World War Two; and Marjorie, Mrs. M. Heath, has one child. One son Frank died in infancy.

Mr. Lee passed away in the Stettler hospital in April 1956. Mrs. Lee then purchased a small house and had it moved to her son Francis' farm yard on S.E. 20-41-19-w4. Here she spent her time making quilts and aprons and enjoying her children and grandchildren until 1967, when she decided to go to the Dr. Kennedy Auxiliary Hospital in Stettler to spend the winter. She suffered a stroke late in 1967 and after a lengthy illness passed away in December 1969 at the age of ninety.

Francis and Marion Lee

Francis E. Lee was born December 24, 1917, the fourth child of Ed and Lottie Lee. Francis, as were all the other Lee children, was born at home in the house still standing on N.E. 28-41-19-w4. Francis attended Buena Vista school to the end of grade nine, when he commenced farming with his father. In January 1941, Francis went to Camrose for his six weeks Basic Training at the Armed Forces Base there. His brother Wilbur enlisted in the R.C.A.F. and Francis remained at home to carry on with farming. In May 1943, Francis purchased E 20-41-19-W4 from Ed



Francis Lee Family, 1976. Back row — Don, Ken, Jerry, Bill, John. Second row — Laura, Ellen, Sandra, Betty, Susan. Front row — Lorna, Francis, Marion, Linda.

Heater. Mr. and Mrs. Heater at that time retired and moved to a house on the Clyde Heater farm.

In 1944, Miss Marion Thurston came from Benton Station, Alberta to teach school at Buena Vista. Marion recalls that school commenced October 2nd that year because of a summer polio epidemic. She also remembers 1944 was the year when there was a snow storm September 30, and the Donalda area received three inches of wet snow. This snow soon melted and harvest was completed as usual.

Francis and Marion were married in July 1946, and went to live in the house on the former Ed Heater place. Twelve children blessed this marriage. Their names and whereabouts are as follows; Bill has been a computer programmer for the Alberta Government for eight years. He is presently studying Botany at the University of Alberta. Betty is a Certified Nursing Aide, married to Reg Kowatch in 1971. They have two children and live in Red Deer. Ellen is in Ottawa and is employed by National Historic Parks and Sites. Ellen has done extensive research with the Archaeological Investigations and in one of her pits discovered the complete skeleton of an Indian. Ken married Sandra Burnstad in 1972. They live in Edmonton and have two children. Ken is employed by Celanese, Canada. Donald married Susan Patterson in 1974. They live in Edmonton and Don is presently in the Armed Forces. Susan is a Physiotherapist. Laura lives in Edmonton and is employed by the Post Office. Susan lives in Edmonton and works for Air Canada. Jerry is working with his father on the farm. He lives at home. Lorna lives in Edmonton and is employed by Toronto Dominion Bank. Sandra is presently in Australia on an Agricultural Student Exchange Program. Linda graduated from Stettler High School in May 1979 and is employed by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. John lives at home and is in Grade Twelve in Stettler. All the children were born in Stettler Hospital with either Dr. Zender or Dr. Malcolm in attendance. Bill began school at Up To Date and he and all the others attended Donalda School. They also all attended Stettler Composite High School.

Bob and Jean Lee

Bob, Jean and family, Diane, Pat, Jimmy and Donnie come from Edmonton to S.W. 30-41-17 in Spruce Coulee which they had purchased from Ed Anderson, Donnie was just a baby then, (and chubby). Bob had been in the Oilfield Services business with a fleet of trucks, and this was his first venture in farming, what he lacked in experience he made up for in enthusiasm. Before bringing the family down, Bob hired a carpenter to finish and renovate the

house. Diane and Pat were already in school, now began the long bus ride to Donalda.

They raised cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens even tried their hand on mushrooms, gathering them in by dish pans full. Feeling isolated, they decided to make a move and sold the farm also some of the black angus cattle to the Herb Mueller's. They then purchased the Walt Persinger farm west of Donalda and moved there in 1960.

The four children received most of their schooling in Donalda. The family lived here until four years ago when they built a log house 1 ½ miles west along the road. The youngest, Donald lives at home and farms with his Dad. Jim is married to Audrey Eichhorn and lives in Red Deer, Patricia and her husband Duane Saunders live at James River Bridge. The eldest daughter, Diane, is married to Robert Conibear and lives in Donalda.

The John Lindstrom Family

John and Nanny Lindstrom immigrated to Canada in 1927 arriving in Meeting Creek on the 23rd of June. We spent the first summer at the Herman Lidberg home where Dad built a barn.

The next winter we stayed with Alphonse Streberg who was caretaker for Ed Heater while they were away. This is now the Francis Lee farm. From there the children attended Buena Vista school. As we could not speak English it was not easy. The following year Dad bought a quarter section one half mile west of the school.

Then the depression came so the money was scarce. Dad was the community blacksmith for many years helping the neighbours to keep their machinery in good shape.

Mother and Dad made their home there until 1950 when Mother passed away, then Dad made his home with his daughter Inga at Ponoka until 1958 when he passed away.

Gerald married Edna Dahl and still resides on the home place. Ragnar is retired and lives on the farm at Meeting Creek, having sold his farm to Gust and Tore Lindstrom. Thora lives at Vernon, B.C.

Uno is also retired from the C.P.R. and makes his home at Riondel, B.C. Ivar was killed in action in Italy in 1944. Leonard passed away in February, 1977 at Uranium City, Saskatchewan. The three older children remained in Sweden where they still reside.

Seth A. Lindstrom Family

The lure of America, the land of opportunity, was calling Seth Lindstrom who was born in 1895 at Vilhelmina, Sweden so he decided to immigrate with his family to Alberta. In the spring of 1928, after

having an auction sale of their belongings, he with his wife Ragnhild and two small boys travelled to Meeting Creek where his uncle Andrew Norman farmed in the Buena Vista district.

In April his Uncle Andrew met the train with his horse drawn wagon and box. The spring mud was a new adventure for the newcomers.

Seth made the down payment on a C.P.R. quarter of raw land, N.W. 7-42-19-w4 on the north-east shore of Mazy Lake. He then built a small two roomed house and started to brush and break a few acres of land.

Years ago, on this same quarter of land, Emil Edstrom and Art Halstead, pioneers of the Edberg district, once operated a sawmill. They sawed lumber for a number of families in the Meeting Creek district. This sawmill had a mishap in which Art Halstead lost his hand and a good team of horses were ruined in the wild ride to Camrose and the doctor.

In the early years Mazy Lake was a hay meadow, and the story is that a hay rake is still sitting in the middle of the lake. Seth Lindstrom remembers seeing large tree trunks standing in the water. These trees grew up in the dry years of the 1880's when there wasn't a drop of water between Buffalo Lake and Dried Meat Lake. Then the rains finally arrived and flooded the land.

The depression came and with very little cultivated land, no money, and a growing family, life was hard. Any spare time was spent working for neighbors to earn extra income. But like so many pioneers, hard work and perseverance won out and in 1957 Seth and Mrs. Lindstrom retired, moving to Stettler where they still reside in their own home. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1974.

Many of their old neighbors have passed away; John Streberg, Alfonse Streberg, O.M. Anderson, John Bergstrom, George Ulyett, Martin Dahl, Oscar and Roy Dahl, K. Snipstead, Harry Green, Leonard Sallstrom, Uncle Andrew Norman.

A family of four boys and three girls were raised. Tore, who married Marilyn Steeves, resides on the home place and farms the land. Gust farms the Martin Dahl and some Sallstrom land and lives in Bashaw. Fred married Jean Green, Donald married Fern Smith and both families live in Stettler. Louise, Mrs. Don Fiske, and Janet Mrs. Ken Ogston both live in Edmonton. Eunice, Mrs. Al Coley lives in Calgary.

After having visited Sweden several times and having considered the hard times, also the good times, both Seth and his wife still regard Canada as the land of opportunity and never once regret having left their homeland.

J. E. Losie

J. E. Losie, his wife, their son Howard, and their daughter Millie, came from the States and homesteaded on the E. 30-41-19-w4 in 1908. Mrs. Losie died and in 1920 that land was purchased by George Persinger. The Losie family went back to the States. Mr. Losie later returned and purchased land, where he lived for several years. He then went back to the States where he married a Mrs. Stone. His step-daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Slater came from the States and purchased the land formerly homesteaded by Richard Johnson (N.E. 3-42-19-w4).

Mr. Emmanuel Morgan

“Morgan” was born in England in 1872, the son of Welsh parents. They lived in a coal-mining district and Morgan began working in a coal mine when a very young lad. He grew up, was married and had two children.

His family remained in England when he came to Canada, coming first to Winnipeg in 1909, where he was employed by Coal Exploration Ltd. From there he came to a small hamlet in southern Alberta where he worked in the coal mines at Coleman.

About 1915 he came to the Buena Vista district. He worked for W. E. Lee, and in 1919 bought S.E. 5-42-19-w4. This quarter had been C.P.R. land but had been owned by T. H. Sears for the preceding three years.

He told of often visiting Colin Smith on Sunday. That was the day Colin usually baked bread and made a pie.

Morgan became ill in 1959 and went to the Dr. Kennedy Auxiliary Hospital in Stettler. He passed away in January 1961.

S.E. 5-42-19-w4 is now farmed by Francis Lee.

August Nelson

August Nelson was born in Varmland, Sweden. He immigrated to America and purchased a fruit farm in Washington, U.S.A. He sold this farm and in 1916 moved to the west Donalda district. Here he traded horses with Ed Lee for N.E. 27-41-19-w4. In later years he sold the farm and moved to a small house on the N.E. 8-42-19. Mr. Nelson did a lot of custom tractor work, breaking land, etc. He also owned a threshing machine and threshed in the Buena Vista district until retirement. He moved to Buck Creek, Alberta, in 1941, where he resided until his death in 1943. He was buried in Edmonton.

Karl Nilson

Karl Nilson, brother of Mrs. Hammarberg, came from Sweden in 1912. He had both his carpenter papers and his bakery papers. He stayed at his sisters home from time to time, did carpenter work throughout the country, and helped to build two of Donalda's elevators. He also went north and helped build elevators at Dawson Creek.

In 1919 he bought the north half of 9-42-19-W4. He lived there for a few years, then sold it and bought land near Edberg. In 1923 he sold that land and came back to Beuna Vista.

He married Sena Dalen, Mrs. Lars Dahl's sister. They moved to Dorenlee. In 1928 Karl, Sena and four small children moved to Hythe. While in the north they had two more children. They returned in 1936 because Sena was ill. She went to the Sanatorium in Calgary. Mrs. Hammarberg kept the two smaller boys and the others stayed with Mrs. Dahl. In the spring Karl bought a house in Dorenlee, hired a housekeeper, and took the four older children. Bob and Gordon stayed at Hammarbergs until 1939 when their mother came home. Karl always had plenty of carpenter work to do so was away much of the time.

Sena died in 1956. Karl went to Bashaw Valley Lodge in 1966 and died there in the 1970's.

An interesting episode in Karl's life was the fact that he enlisted in World War I. He was sent to England but because of difficulty with his feet was unable to endure marching long distances. He was transferred to duty cook where he served for a time. When he was demobilized, he went to Sweden and brought his father to Canada.

Andrew Norman

Andrew Norman and Conrad Larson came from Sweden about 1903 or 1904. Andrew took a homestead on S.E. 34-41-19. Conrad bought C.R.R. land S.W. 34-41-19. They raised sheep on their land. In the fall of 1909, Andrew went back to Sweden and in the fall 1910, came back with a wife, Selma. They had three sons; Adolf, Willie, and Alex. Shortly after the First World War, they moved to the Hazel Grove District. About 1922 or 1923 they moved back to the Buena Vista District. They bought the S.W. 9-41-19 where the Stewart family had resided. The Normans lived here until 1938 when the family moved to Buck Creek. A few years later Selma died and Andrew moved to Buck Lake, and from there to Meeting Creek where he died at the age of 81.

Adolf married Ella Johnson of Hazel Grove District. Adolf died in the '50's and his wife and family live in the vicinity of Leduc. Willie and his wife and

daughter live in Edmonton. Alex and his wife Helen live at Vernon, B.C. and their two sons are in Edmonton.

Andrew was continually in motion while talking. They say once when getting groceries he was talking as usual and seeing on the counter what he thought to be candies, took some and put them in his mouth. There certainly was some sputtering then, because they were red peppers.

In the early years the district was visited from time to time by roving Indians. Andrew became friendly with some of them and told of being invited to have a meal with them. He especially enjoyed the meat served. After the meal he was told it was muskrat meat he had eaten. Andrew was slightly taken aback but said that muskrat meat was really quite good to eat.

In 1912 Conrad Larson went to Newton, B.C. where he is still living. He was a slow talker, just the opposite of Andrew Norman.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Ordge and Family

Jack and his wife with sons Alex, Pat, Bill and John, and daughter Margaret moved on to S.E. 3-42-19-w4 in the 1930's. Jim, Lily and the baby who died were born there. Mr. Ordge operated a coal mine on the Battle River. He enlisted in World War II but died of cancer while still in the forces.

All of the children attended school at Buena Vista. Margaret, Jim and Lily were still going when the school closed in 1950. Then they went to school in Donalda. Soon after that their house burned and they moved to Donalda.

Mrs. Ordge, Pat, John, Margaret, Jim and Lily all live in Edmonton. Bill lives at Endiang, and Alex and family live in Eastern Canada.

Jim Ordge, who attended Donalda School until he graduated from grade twelve, took up singing and has won top honors as a country western singer.

Persinger Families

George Persinger, his wife Ettie, and their two children, Winnifred and Willard, came to the Buena Vista District in 1918 or 1919. In 1920 they bought the E. 30-41-19 and E. 32-41-19 from J. E. Losie. Their children, Winnie and Willard attended Buena Vista School until they returned to U.S.A. in the mid 1920's.

Walter Persinger came to Alberta from Nebraska in the fall of 1919. He purchased S.E. 31-41-19 from the C.P.R. and S.W. 32-41-19, the Estate of Robert Ward, from his widow, Edith May Ward, of Wetas-kiwin. In the spring of 1920 he was joined by his

wife, Bessie, and they lived at the home of his brother, George until they built a small house on their own land. "Walt" and Bessie had three children; Eileen, who married Stan Dawson (deceased), lives north of Tees. Their children are Roger and Sandra. Warren lives at Prince George, B.C., and Maynard and his wife, Betty live at Oliver, B.C.

When George and his family returned to the States, Walt bought their property and he and Maynard farmed there until after Bessie passed away.

In 1954 they had a sale and moved to Oliver, B.C. Walt rented his farm, first to George Salmon and Sons, then to Bob Tuck, and then to Keith Marshall. In 1960 the farm was sold to R. E. (Bob) Lee, who still owns it. In 1975 Bob Lee and his family built a log house on N.W. 36-41-19 and are now living there. He sold an acreage where the former Persinger building site had been to George and Jean Prunkl. They operate a flourishing greenhouse business there.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Sallstrom

Leonard and Ida and two daughters, Vera and Elna, moved to N.W. 9-42-19-w4 on April 19, 1921. They came from Buford, Alberta. They travelled with horse and wagon for one week — a distance of a hundred miles. Mrs. Sallstrom drove a wagon and horses with a hayrack loaded with their furniture and possessions. Another wagon carried the pigs, calves and chickens. Mr. Sallstrom walked and herded the cows with the help of Clarence Dahl, who rode a pony. At night they often slept in a school, church or an abandoned house. They milked the cows and fed the animals. One night they stayed with a friend.

An older son Elis later came from Sweden, where he had been staying with his grandmother. Lillie, the oldest daughter, was working when her parents and sisters moved to the Buena Vista district, but she came often to visit. She married Chris Jensen who was an elevator agent in Donalda for many years. They have three daughters; Betty May Pearson a secretary in Drayton Valley, Doris Winsor — a nurse in Vancouver, and Ruby Wady — a teacher at Edson. Vera married Fred Winter and lives in Edberg. They have two children David and Edith. David, a pilot, lives in Regina and Edith (Mrs. Len Lawrence) lives in Camrose. Elna married Emil Greening and they moved to Salmon Arm, B.C. They had three children; Ida — a nurse and Larry and James both working to become mechanics. All live in Calgary. Emil and Elna are both deceased. Elis lives in Edberg.

A memory, as told by Vera; Money was very scarce in 1921 and later. Mother was a hard worker.

To get extra money she trapped muskrats in winter. Our farm had many sloughs. She found the 'muskrat runs', set traps in winter, and each day she walked around the sloughs to find her catch. Then she skinned, stretched and dried the skins. These she sold and I remember once that she bought a set of silverware. We liked the shiny spoons. That was all her work because Dad was afraid to even touch a muskrat. He was also afraid of mice so it was her duty to eradicate them.

Henry Seimers

Henry Seimers, his wife and sons Willie and Heinz and daughter Wilma came to the Buena Vista district in 1924 or 1925. They came to Henry's cousins, the Reinebergs near Stettler, where they stayed until they purchased the Krumm place N.E. 34-41-19-w4 and lived there until the land was purchased by Sid Cram. Wilma and Heinz attended school at Buena Vista. Willie married Marjorie Brewster and they now reside in Camrose. Wilma married and later moved to Manitoba. Heinz joined the army and was in active service during World War Two. He brought home an English War Bride, Joyce. Mr. Seimers was the mail carrier in the 1930's. Mrs. Seimers died in 1940. Mr. Seimers moved to Manitoba where he passed away. Heinz went to B.C. where he was killed in an accident.

Shoemaker Family

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wilbur Shoemaker and their two children emigrated from South Dakota to Alberta in 1911. They came first to the Ferintosh district and then moved to their homestead in the Big Timber district ten miles west of Donalda. Here, seven more children joined the family. From oldest to youngest they were: Charles, Jesse, Anna, Leo, Robert, Katherine, Fred, Hazel, and Bertha. Anna passed away at the age of 15, Mrs. Leta Shoemaker in 1925, Wilbur in 1948, and Charles in 1952. Jesse moved to Vancouver in 1930 and Katherine, Hazel, Bertha and Charles lived in the Bashaw area for some time. At present Katherine (Hensch) lives in Chilliwack, B.C., Bertha (Masters) in Red Deer and Hazel (Trout) in Camrose, Leo, Bert and Fred remained in the Donalda area.

Bert and Leo lived on the family farm until their retirement to Bashaw in 1977. Leo married Velma Knockleby in 1950 and had one daughter, Audrey, who lives in Drumheller. Bert and Jean (nee Trout) were married in 1941. They have five children: Carol (Jahna) in Edmonton, Harry at Huxley, Verne in Edmonton, Brian in Stettler and Allan at Coronation.

Fred and Joan (Bye) were married in 1949 and



Rick, Joanie, Fred, Trudy, Joan and Wayne Shoemaker. 1961.

bought Harry Green's farm in the Buena Vista District (where they still reside). They have four children: Rick who lives in the Grande Prairie; Wayne now in Ferintosh but formerly of Donalda, and Trudy and Joan, both of Donalda. Trudy was married in 1971 to Jim Bailey and Joan married Doug Bailey, Jim's brother, in 1973. Jim and Trudy have two children, Colin James born in 1973 and Christine Cheryl born in 1977. Joan and Doug have one daughter, Kelly Lucille born in 1973. Colin and Kelly both attend the Donalda School.

Wilbur Shoemaker was well known in this area and is remembered by 'old timers' for miles around. Neighbors from far and near came to enjoy the warm hospitality of the Shoemaker family and even took in the rodeos often held on Section One. Wilbur was just one of the real cowboys of this area.

In 1943 an army camp was stationed on their land and many of the trees still bear the scars of target practice. No unauthorized persons were allowed on the premises during the army's stay there. A few people found this out the hard way when the army took them into custody and hauled them off to headquarters for questioning.

During World War Two both Fred and Leo Shoemaker served with the armed forces overseas. Rick Shoemaker joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1968 and remained in the services for five years.

Mrs. Joan Shoemaker taught school at Buena Vista in 1946-1947 and has taught at Meeting Creek for nineteen years.



Fred and Joan Shoemakers' 25th Anniversary, June, 1974. Rick, Darlene, Twila; Trudy, Jim and Colin; Joan, Doug, and Kelly; and Wayne.

Settlers were attracted to the Donalda district, not only because the land was fairly cheap and fertile, but because of its proximity to Buffalo Lake where fish were plentiful. The early settlers mostly came from the United States and Eastern Canada by train and then by wagon or on horseback.

These pioneers endured many hardships, and yet most of them refer to those early years as "The Good Old Days". Their homes were mostly built out of logs with only meagre furnishings. The only means of travel was by wagon, and on horseback or on foot. There were very few doctors or hospitals.

The machinery they used was very simple, at first ploughing the land with gang plows or walking plows. They seeded the crops by hand until about 1908, when the first seed drills were used. About 1912 the first steam engine was used to harvest the grain.

When the automobile put in an appearance, "Progress" was really under way. Some of the first cars were the Model T Ford, Maxwell Hupmobiles, and Overland Whippets. Jarvis Hutchinson, an early homesteader, owned one of the first cars, which looked somewhat like a buggy and steered by a sort of tiller. The first roads were rough prairie trails which may have been broken in by the Indians.

The schoolhouse was the centre of the community where dances, box socials, Christmas concerts and church services (as well as school) were held.

Silverwhips

Silverwhips were a Metis family who homesteaded on the N.E. 4-42-19-w4. We are not certain how many children there were, but a few years ago a

daughter Maggie lived in Vancouver. Mrs. Silver Whip was very skilled in Indian Medicines. She handed down to Mrs. A. Hammarberg the names of many plants whose leaves and roots were beneficial in treating both people and animals. They were very helpful neighbors.

Their land was purchased by J. G. McRobie and R. A. McLaren in 1912.

Kasper and Jenny Snipstad

by Mrs. Ivan Lyseng

Kaspar and Jenny Snipstad, with their daughter, Gerd (myself), immigrated to Canada from Norway in 1926. I was one year, nine months old when we arrived.

Upon arrival in the Donalda district, we made our home with the Ed. Hagens for a short time.

Dad and Mother bought two quarters of raw land seven miles west and one mile north of Donalda. On this land they built a one-room log house, which was added to as needed.

They fenced the land, and cleared and broke about sixty acres of the hilly, bush lands. The farming was done with horses and a limited amount of machinery.

We bought some cows so we were able to sell cream to help pay the bills. Grocery bills weren't very high in those days as we always had our own meat, churned butter, baked bread, and always had a garden. We picked wild berries for our winter supply of fruit. Picking saskatoons, wild cranberries and wild raspberries was part of the summer work and



Kasper and Jenny Snipstead.

Mother would can many quarts and make jelly from the wild fruit. We might say we lived “off the land.”

Richard and Harold were born on the farm. I remember that Mrs. John Lindstrom was the midwife who came when Harold was born.

Most of our school years were spent in the one room school called Big Timber. Grades I to VIII were taught in this school. When I began school I couldn't speak English but I soon learned and came home and taught my brothers to speak English. It was approximately two miles to school, and we walked every day — a good way to keep slim and healthy. Two hi-lights of the school year were the School Concert and the Annual Picnic in June. The home-made ice cream was always a treat at our picnic and folks liked to get together and visit.

It was difficult to get to a doctor or a dentist. I can remember once when Mother could stand the toothache no longer. She caught a ride with the Stenersons to Bashaw. They drove in a buggy. Mother had several of her lower teeth extracted and came home with no problems but a sore mouth for a few days.

In 1939 we got our first radio. That was a real highlight!

We didn't have a telephone until a few years later but we had close neighbors, the Harry Greens, who very kindly let us use theirs.

About 1940 Dad bought his first car, so we were able to do more things. We then had membership in the Sharon Lutheran Church in Donalda. I began High School in Donalda about that time.

In 1959 Dad and Mother sold the farm to Alphonse Streberg, and bought a home in Camrose. They both worked at Bethany Home and Hospital for a few years.

Dad passed away in Camrose Hospital October 29, 1972 and Mother passed away April 4, 1974.

I live with my husband Ivan Lyseng, on a farm at Armena. We have three children who are all grown up. Doug and Carol are married and Keith is still single.

Richard and Leona live in Minneapolis. They have six children.

Harold and Grace live in Coquitlam, British Columbia. They have three children.

Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Stewart

The Stewarts bought the S. 9-42-19-w4 in 1920. There were six children. The oldest two had left school when they came to the Buena Vista district. Four sons; Gordon, George, Maurice and Roy all attended Buena Vista. The youngest son, Melvin, was too young to attend school.

After two or three years they moved away and the land was purchased by Andrew Norman.

Stowells

Claude and Edith Stowell moved to the Van Dyke place in about 1918. There were five children in the family, DeVere, Donald, Beth, Robert and Kenneth. The Buena Vista teachers boarded with them as they



C. C. Stowell Family: DeVere, Donald, Mrs. Stowell holding Kenneth, Bob and Beth.

lived across from the school. In 1929 they moved to Ponoka, and Claude worked in the Mental Hospital until he retired. Claude, Edith and sons DeVere, Bob and Ken are all deceased.

Benjamin Trayer

from “Fifty Years on the Coulee Rim”

One of our early homesteaders, Benjamin Trayer, was a Justice of the Peace, who at times, settled neighbors' squabbles in his own home. In the pioneering days, he was the nearest J.P. to Donalda and took the responsibility of a judge. Mr. Trayer was, no doubt, well suited temperamentally to his tasks, as he came of good Irish stock. (His parents had been farmers in Tipperary, Ireland.)

Benjamin and Jenny Trayer settled near Buffalo Lake in 1905. At that time there were many Metis living nearby. The nearest post office was Whitebrush and many times their daughter, Elsie, would ride there on her pony for the mail. She brought it twice a week by 'pony express' for the local residents, using a gunny sack for a mail bag. Needless to say she was not paid for these services.

The Ulyett Family

Thomas and Elizabeth Ulyett — he a Sheffield policeman and she a nurse — were married in that city in the year 1887. They came to the U.S.A. in the year 1896 with three children; George, Edith and Emerson. After spending several years there with



George, Elizabeth and Thomas Ulyett on the Homestead.



Tom Ulyett Family: Back row — George, Tom, Elizabeth Ulyett, Edith Stowell holding Ken, Claude Stowell holding Robert. Front row — Ray Ulyett, Beth, Don and DeVere Stowell.

relatives they came to Wetaskiwin, Alberta in 1900. They obtained work in the Angus Ridge district southeast of Wetaskiwin. Shortly after this they obtained homesteads; Thomas on N.E. 6-42-19-w4 and son George on S.E. 6-42-19-w4. (At this time — 1979 — Eddy Green farms N.E. 6-42-19 and Theodore Dahl farms the S.E. 6-42-19.) Thomas Ulyett built a log house on his quarter and this became their first home in this area.

In 1916 George Ulyett married Winnifred Gordon of Camrose, a teacher at the Buena Vista school. They had one son, Raymond who married Evelyn Dahl of Buena Vista and they in turn had three children; Steve, Valerie and Wendy.

In 1910 Edith Ulyett married Claude Stowell and they had five children; DeVere, Donald, Beth, Robert, and Kenneth who all attended Buena Vista and Donalda schools before moving to Ponoka.

Emerson Ulyett died while still in his teens.

George Ulyett spent many years on local district school boards, as municipal councillor, as game warden and also belonged to several farm organizations. He also took part in many community and sports activities throughout central Alberta.

George's son Ray and his wife Evelyn lived in Ponoka for thirty-five years where he worked at the hospital. Having retired from the hospital in 1975,



Raymond Ulyett Family: Valerie, Steve and Wendy, Ray and Evelyn.

they now live in Edmonton. Their son Steve and his wife Judy also live in Edmonton. Their daughter Valerie lives in Toronto. Their youngest daughter Wendy married Ken Williams and they live in Edmonton. Ken and Wendy have two children.

The C. N. Van Dyke Family

The Van Dykes, one of the first white families to settle in the district, were here when the E. E. Heater family arrived in 1903. Van Dykes homesteaded the S.W. 4-42-19-w4. They had two sons, Herman who in turn homesteaded S.W. 28-41-19-w4, and Tot who married and lived in Camrose, and two daughters Grace and Madge. Madge married Mr. Soderstrom. The Van Dyke family moved to Erskine in 1914.

Herman married Pearl LaRose and in 1915 left his homestead. Herman and Pearl live in California.

G. R. Vasey

Mr. G. R. Vasey homesteaded the N.W. 6-42-19-w4. Records show that he was there when the

school district was formed in 1908, and still there in 1922 when our records end. Some time after that he was found dead in his bed by the neighbors. The land now belongs to Fred Shoemaker.

H. W. Wallace

Harry Wallace and family moved to the S.E. 34-41-19-w4 in 1922. They had a son Howard and two daughters Iola and Laverne. When they left they went to the States.

The Williams Story

Laurence Firmston Williams was born at Shrewsbury, England in the year 1890 and came to Canada at the age of eighteen years. He worked for S. E. Pearson for some time. In 1914 he married Elsie Trayer. They farmed in the Buena Vista district until 1947. There were five children born to this marriage; Alfred B. (Fred), Elizabeth Anne (Bessie), Laurence T., Violet J. (Vi), and Dorothy Joyce.

In 1947 Laurie (as he was known to everyone), his wife Elsie, and Joyce moved into Donalda and Laurie worked in the Co-op Creamery with Percy Jones. He also sold Insurance. Laurie was quite active in Cubs and Scouts, Church work and the choir. His great love was music and he was very proud of his choir who were very co-operative. Laurie was choir master in the United Church in Donalda for almost twenty years. He passed away in the University Hospital on December 21, 1965.

When Laurie and Elsie moved to Donalda the farm was bought by their son Fred, who married Pat Damberger. Their two daughters, Linda and Deborah were born while Pat and Fred were living on the farm. They later sold their property to Laurence



Laurence and Rita Williams, Andy and David.



Mr. and Mrs. Laurie Williams and Grandson.



Laurence (Laurie) T. Williams, 1911.

and moved to Bashaw. Their two sons Larry and Kevin were born there. Laurence married Rita Wilson and after Pat and Fred moved to Bashaw, they lived on the Laurie Williams homeplace for several years. Then they moved back to the Wilson house where they still reside. Laurence and Rita have four sons; Andy married Mary Duffy and they live at Ft. St. John, B.C. and have two children, David married Leslie Fisher and lives in Calgary, they have two children. Stephen of Red Deer College and Robert of Ft. St. John.

Bessie Williams (deceased) married Leland Fisher (deceased) of Stettler and they have two sons Glen and Lorne and a daughter Wendy. Violet Williams married J. W. (Slim) Wardel (deceased) and they have four daughters; Elizabeth, Geraldine, Jacqueline and Christine, and one son James. Joyce Williams married Roy Langille and they have three daughters; Cheryl, Lorna, Deanne and two sons Daryll and Trent.

Mrs. Elsie Williams now makes her home at the Bashaw Valley Lodge.

Wilson

A family with several sons and daughters moved on to the Van Dyke place S.W. 4-42-19-w4 when the Van Dykes left. Their daughter Sybil married Hank Anderson. The Wilson men worked at times in the Donalda Mines.

About 1917, or thereabouts, one summer day we were out in our yard when my Uncle John said "I saw a car come down the east hill, but it never went up the west one", (in those days the road made a big swing to the south coming down the east hill north and around the slough south of our house, then swung south again going up the west hill). We rushed to the edge of the hill and all we could see were four car wheels in the slough. The men rushed down and just as they got to the edge of the slough, the wheels flopped over and out from under came two men with a child under each arm. The men rushed out to enquire if there were others. Luckily not. They were Max Damberger and Cort and also John Graf with Matilda, Lucy and Henry. John Graf had newly arrived in Donalda and Max was going to take him out to Buffalo Lake. They arrived at a lake O.K., but not the right one.

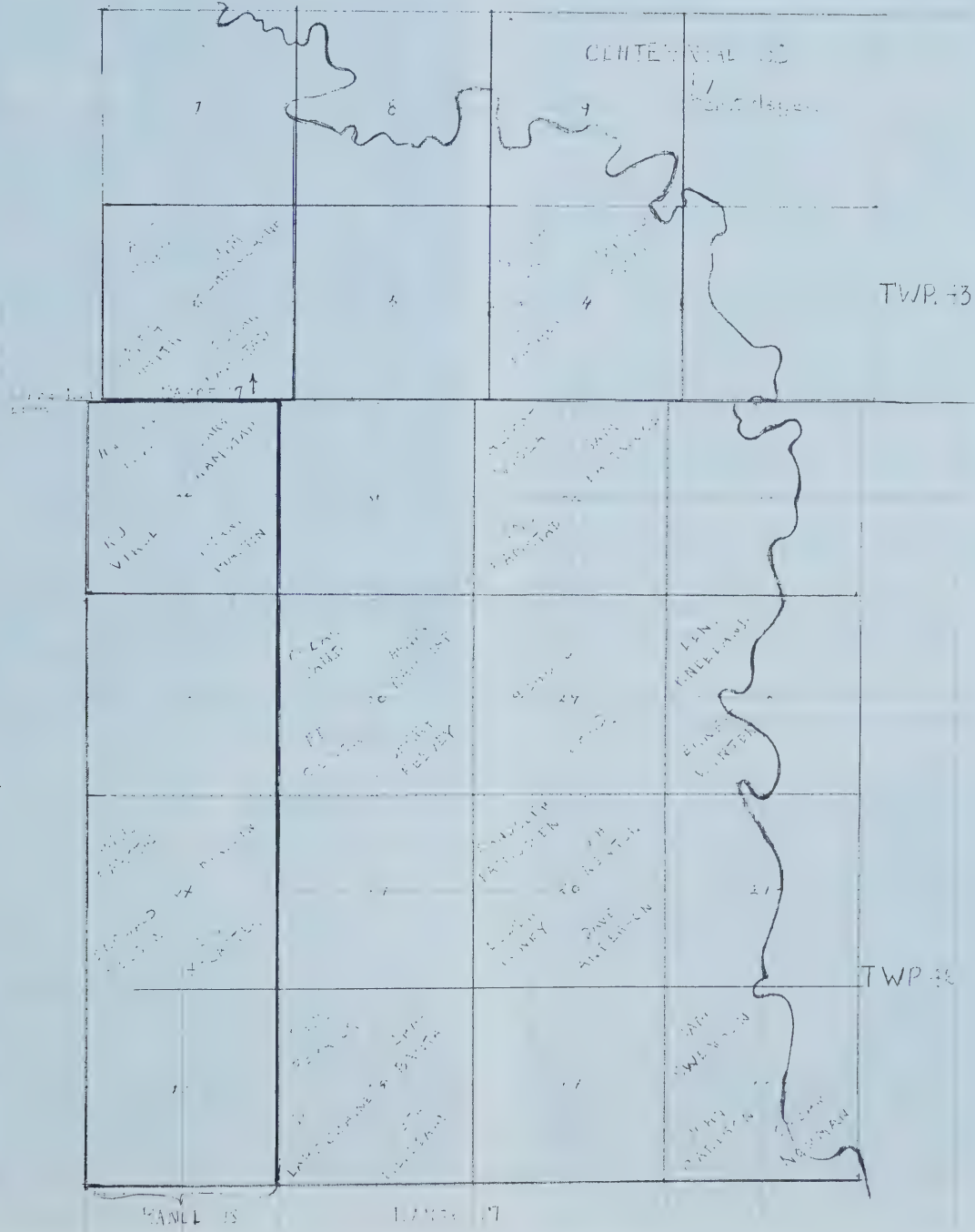
Mamma cleaned the kids up and loaned them some of our clothing as we were about the same size. I can't remember how the men made out, as they were both big men beside my family.

I don't remember how they got the car out, but it would have to be by horse power as no one around had a tractor.

I imagine it was many years before the Grafs forgot their initiation to the Donalda area.

by Astrid Hammarberg Rider

Centennial School District



Centennial School

The Centennial School was organized in 1917. Two names were selected by the ratepayers and sent to the Department of Education for their choice. They were 'Newton' for the first homesteader and 'Centennial' meaning every hundred years suggested by a veterinarian, Dr. Smith, living in the district with his family. The department chose the name Centennial and the school was built in 1918. Evelyn Blackmore, who later became Mrs. Miles Dickey was the first teacher.

Mr. Philipson was the carpenter and Mr. Frank Stahler hauled the building material out from Donalds.

The members of the first board were. Ludwig Loney — chairman, Ralph Smith — trustee, and Emil Ramstad — secretary-treasurer.

Centennial School was built by Mr. Philipson, and opened in 1919. Some of the teachers who taught there are; Evelyn Blackmore, Mary Morgan, Mr. Plant, Mrs. Henderson, Constance Loney, Miss Voycee, Medora Beckman, Miss Knudtson, Eleanor Magee, Leon Enders and Graham Howorth.

Attendance was large enough to 'choose up sides' and have a good game of baseball. Students were the children of Tom Preston, the five Ramstad families, the Anonson families, the Ralph Smiths, the Dave Andersons, Whislos, Holladays and Pedersons.

Going to school wasn't all work. During the winters they enjoyed coasting, skiing, skating and schoolhouse dances. Music was probably supplied by Martin Anonson on his violin, with his brother playing the banjo and Oscar Ramstad on the bass fiddle. Ball games and neighborhood picnics were enjoyed in the summer time.

Sunday school was held for a time in Centennial school with Mrs. Baker teaching and Lauritz Pederson supplying the music on the organ.

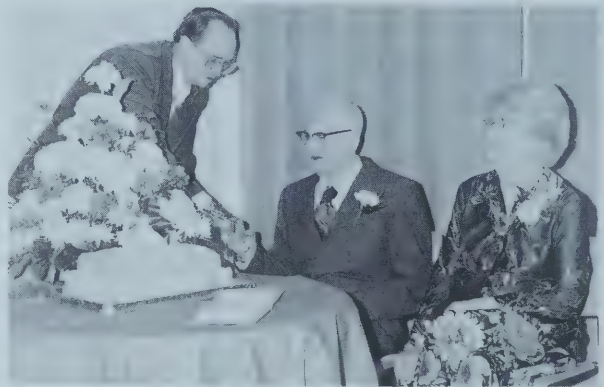
David Anderson

Mr. Anderson's first journey to his new homestead in this area was an eventful one as he broke a wheel and had to tie on a skid in order to get as far as the Blomgren farm where he repaired the wheel. Dave had arrived in 1905 with the immigrants from Sioux City, Iowa. Dave was born in Sweden in 1878, and later came to Canada. When he first arrived by train in Alberta he worked part of the year at Ohaton before heading for his homestead.

The Jay Newtons homestead was his home for six months while he built his own house. This first house is still in use as a shop in the present farm yard. Early neighbors were L. McCarter and family (on land sold to the Holladays). For six years Dave hauled grain to



Dave and Clara Anderson's Golden Wedding Anniversary.



Dave Anderson on his 100th birthday, born April 27, 1878 with his wife Clara.

Bawlf with team and wagon. In 1913 he hauled his first grain to Donalds.

In 1910 Dave married Clara Loney and to this union a son, Melvin and a daughter, Alice (Mrs. Eric Holmberg) were born.

In 1919 they built a spacious home, they celebrated their Golden Wedding there when 150 guests surprised them with a party. Dave enjoyed working in the garden and keeping the yard nice as his son Melvin farmed the land. In 1962, Dave visited the doctor for the first time, when he had to have his eye operated on. The doctor remarked that his physical condition equalled that of a man half his age. Dave and Clara lived on their homestead until 1973 when

they moved to the Bethany Home in Camrose. Through the years Dave would thank us for coming to his birthdays and that he would see us on his 100th. Dave celebrated his 100th birthday in the lounge of the Bethany Home. He wanted to walk without any help; a large crowd of friends and all his family were there to wish him well. Dave passed away on July 19, 1978, active to the last week.

Melvin Anderson

Melvin went to Centennial School. He worked on the farm besides doing some trucking. In 1942 he married Geraldine Anderson, daughter of Walter and Gladys Anderson. To this union were born a son



Melvin, Ron, Geraldine, Linda Anderson.



Geraldine and Melvin Anderson.

Ronald and a daughter Linda (Mrs. Larry Enders of Rosalind). They live on the quarter joining the west side of Melvin's dad's farm, and are still farming. Their son Ronald farms and lives at home with his parents.

Leon Boulter Family

Leon Boulter was born and raised on a farm in the Rosalind district, the oldest in a family of seven boys. To complete his schooling he attended the Olds School of Agriculture where he met Kay Higgin, a "city girl" from Calgary. They were married in the fall of '44 and settled on the farm at Rosalind. Daughter Marilyn was born in 1945. It soon became apparent that Leon and his Dad would need more pasture land for their growing herd of cattle and horses so in 1946 they purchased land in the Centennial District, the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 4-43-17-W4, from Percy Ross and the adjoining Wisla homestead, the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 32-42-17-W4: The summer and fall of '47 were spent improving fences and building a house on the Ross quarter. Kay, Leon and Marilyn moved to their new home the day after Christmas 1947. The snow grew deep that winter and travel was difficult. Access to the farm was one mile across the field and Leon spent much of his time ploughing snow so that the cream from his small herd of Ayrshires could be delivered to the Creamery in Donalda. Spring came late that year and then a quick thaw caused the Battle River to flood to such proportions as had not been seen since 1904-05. Since Meeting Creek was also in flood the family was completely isolated from all towns in the area. Feed grain, seed and gas had to be moved across the river by boat in order to proceed with spring work as the water did not recede until late June.

Leon worked in the Wisla Coal Mine on the river



The Boulters — Leon, Marilyn, Kay and Barrie.

during the winter of 1949-50, a very cold winter that saw the temperature drop to 58 below. The following winter a son, Barrie was born in January. A mid-March blizzard left many roads blocked until spring sun melted the snow.

In the meantime Leon purchased the Bakke homestead from Art Anonson and his father bought the NW½ 4-43-17-W4 from Frank Blady.

Many attempts to find a good well on the Ross quarter proved unsuccessful and water had to be hauled from a spring on the Wisla quarter. Finally a decision was made to move the house to the water and so a new farmyard was established down in the coulee by the spring. The County obliged by building a road on the correction line to the farm gate and the long trek across the field was finally eliminated.

For several years a 32 volt power plant provided electric light and ran a few small engines. Then about 1954 the power lines came through and many things were made easier.

Marilyn attended Ibsen School to Grade 4 as Centennial School had been closed several years before. By the time Barrie reached school age, Ibsen had also been closed. The children were bussed to Donalda by Melvin Ramstad.

Harvest time was hard work and long hours but the co-operation with neighbors Dave and Melvin Anderson, Emil Ramstad, Mike, Willie and Fred Sydor got the work done in a minimum of time and provided hours of visiting as well.

The Boulter family were always active participants in any events that involved horses. For some years Leon's younger brothers were jockeys at various race meets in Alliance, Coronation, etc., while Kay, Leon and Marilyn all participated in jumping, roping and gymkana events. Many hours were devoted to helping organize and participate in the Camrose Fair. As well the family were strong supporters of the Ibsen Community Society.

In 1957, Bentonite was discovered in the Centennial district and much activity followed as the geologist and driller for Magcobar Mining Company moved in to assess the extent of the find and to lease land for future mining. Leon took a job helping these men and later when a processing plant was built in Rosalind he accepted a job there which eventually led to the position of Mill Superintendent.

After several years of combining the work of farming and Magcobar, the family moved back to Rosalind in 1963. That same year Marilyn married Bill Whiting of Rosalind and they lived on the farm for several years prior to Bill joining the Air Force. While Bill was stationed at Cold Lake the family lived in Bonnyville. Marilyn and Bill now live on an

acreage south east of Sherwood Park with their two boys, Bill and Michael.

Barrie married Marj Pomery of Edmonton and they now live in Camrose with their two children, Christopher and Tracy.

In 1963, Robert Boulter, one of Leon's younger brothers, purchased the Henry Graf farm and subsequently the Leo Grams, formerly Henry Ramstad, farm. In the fall of 1964 he married Betty Jeffress of Calgary and so began their life in the Centennial district. Life on the farm was very different for Betty as she had come from Scotland with her family eight years before, but she soon learned to love farm life and quickly became one of us. Robert and Betty have two children, Barbara and Allan. Robert now farms 12 quarters of land which includes farms formerly owned by Henry Graf, Henry Ramstad, Emil Ramstad, Frank Blady, and rented land from Leon.

Kay and Leon still live at Rosalind but enjoy returning to the coulees for picnics and hiking in summer and snowmobiling in the winter. They also return to Ibsen for as many social events as time permits, time being governed by their new job with Alberta Swine Breeders Association. They are now busy selling purebred swine to countries such as Mexico, Japan, Malaysia, Phillipines and any other that signify an interest in Canadian stock.

Samuel Eastwood

In 1900, Samuel Eastwood came to Canada from Yorkshire, England. He filed on a homestead near Churchbridge, Saskatchewan. A few years later he was married to Miss Mary Todd. They had one son Thomas. In 1917 they moved to Donalda from Saskatchewan. Sam was a butcher by trade, so opened a business in Donalda which he operated for a few years. When he gave up the butcher business he worked in some coal mines in the area.

Several years went by; then he obtained some land north-east of Centennial School. Here he opened a coal mine of his own. Thomas lived with his parents and helped his father for a few years.

In 1939 Thomas enlisted in the Canadian Army. He spent six years in the army, most of the time overseas. He returned to Canada in August 1945; he received his discharge and was employed in Edmonton for a few months.

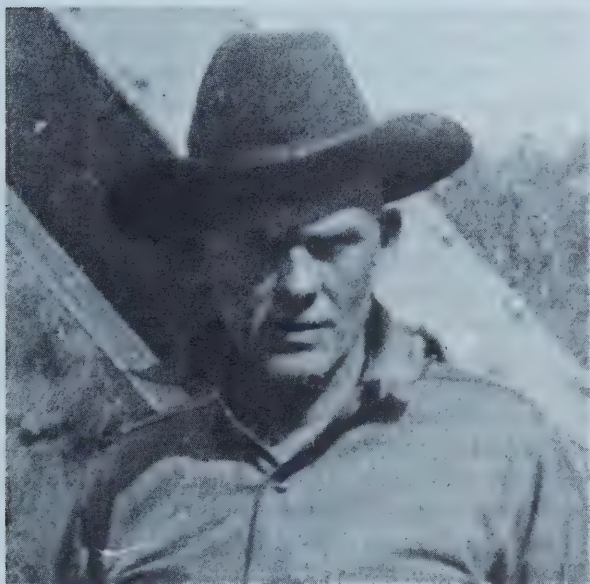
On December 3, 1945, he was married to Alma Ramstad. The spring of 1946 he bought a V.L.A. farm near New Norway. While here, two children were born, Wilfred and Phyllis. They remained on the farm until 1957, when he sold the farm and moved to Camrose. Thomas has been employed with the County of Camrose for a number of years.

Mary Eastwood passed away in July, 1945 just a

short time before Thomas returned from overseas. After her death, Sam moved to New Norway and lived in his own house on his son's farm. He passed away in February 1955 at the age of 77 years.

Jesse Graham

Jesse was born in Red Deer. When he was growing up he lived in the Nevis and Mirror districts. He joined the army during the First World War, but by the time he got to England the war was over. He always said "I got there in time to shake hands with King George V."



Jess Graham.

In 1919 Jesse came to work for Walter Anderson. He had cattle and in the first years they did a lot of sod breaking. In 1934 Jesse came to the Science Mound Area where again he worked for Walter Anderson. In the winter of 1936 he worked at Bert Jones. Jesse then went to work for Laurence Bruce where he stayed till about 1947 when he went to work for Melvin Anderson. The last years he has made his home there.

Holladay Family

William and Lilly with their son Robert (Bob) came from Iowa and settled in the Centennial district in 1920, where they had purchased the McCarter homestead. Following his parents deaths, Bob farmed the land.

Bob married Lucy Graf of Donalda and their children are: Eldon, Dale, Dianne, Lucille, Lorne and Judy.

Through the years Bob acquired more land and



Danny MacDonald, Lucy holding Danny Jr., Bob Holladay.



Bob Holladay on the John Deere.

along with farming took over the Donalda Stock yards from Gordon Otteson. He was a well known stock buyer. Bob also ran the John Deere machinery agency. Bob and Lucy were always willing to help any one in need. They moved into Donalda and their son Dale took over the farm.

In 1976, Dale sold the farm and it is now the Donalda Hutterite Colony. Bob died in 1972. Lucy still resides in Donalda. The family all live in Alberta. Eldon and Helen live in Lethbridge. They have one son. Dale married Muriel Jones and they have a boy and a girl. They live in Red Deer. Dianne married Doug Paige and they live in Peace River. They have a son and a daughter. Lucille married Gary Stanvik and they have two girls. They live in Peace River. Lorne married Marie McEwin and they have a son and a daughter. They live in St. Albert. Judy married Danny MacDonald and they have two boys and live in Donalda.

Ludwig Loney

Ludwig and Maren Loney came to the Centennial School district in 1908, where they homesteaded. They had a family of four; Clara married Dave Anderson and lives in Camrose. Dave is dead. Mae, (Mrs. Brown) is deceased. Hilda married Ernest (Dad) Winter. Hilda is deceased as is Justine. Ludwig passed away in 1924, and Maren in 1946.

Emil Ramstad

by Ruth (Ramstad) Grue

Emil Ramstad was born near Detroit Lakes, Minnesota in 1887. He emigrated as a young man to Alberta, and settled in the Norbo district in 1910.

His first wife Minnie Lien, passed away when their twin daughters, Evelyn and Kathleen were less than a year old. Emil's widowed mother, Anne, made her home with him for several years.

In the late twenties, he married Olava Nysven who had come from Norway to visit her sister, Mrs. Henry Ramstad. Emil now farmed in the Centennial district. They had one daughter, Ruth.

The depression and drought hit so it was only because of their determination and hard work that they could make a living. Emil did custom breaking of land, and Henry and Emil had a threshing outfit for several years and did custom threshing.

Very little food could be bought but the vegetable garden and the wild berries supplemented the products from the animals. At one time, Olava sold primost and she often baked lefsa and flatbread.

When family members slid up and down the coulees after a rain, little did they dream that this bentonite clay would someday be processed at a plant at Rosalind.

Emil was a ardent reader so the mail days were always looked forward to. The radio was a source of enjoyment. The family enjoyed worship at Ferry Point, Donalda, or Bethany after it was possible to drive a car.

Beginning in the fall of 1952, the Ramstads spent their winters in Armena, returning to the farm in the spring. They bought and moved into a house in Camrose in 1967, the year Emil passed away. Olava Malmgren resides in Camrose and she still enjoys baking several Norwegian goodies.

Evelyn married Norman Tollefson, an interior decorator, and raised a family of four, namely, Raymond, Kenneth, Janice, and Keith. Their home is Camrose.

Kathleen became Mrs. Roy Phillips. They still farm near Camrose. Their children are Clifford, Douglas, Donna and Daryl.

Ruth married Evert Grue. They farmed in the Armena district for over twenty-five years and raised a family of six: Anne, Barry, Ronald, Sonja, Charles and James. They now live in Camrose where Ruth teaches school and Evert is employed at his son's cabinet shop.

Henry Ramstad

In the year 1907, Henry Ramstad and younger brother Emil came to Alberta from Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. They each filed on a homestead which later became the Centennial District or the hard pan area (as many called it). They spent a year or two in the area working on a ranch situated along the Battle River near the Ferry Point Bridge. This was called the Connolly Ranch. Henry also spent a short time at the livery stable in Camrose. Now that they had obtained some land, they returned to Minnesota to bring their parents, Lars and Anna Ramstad, back to Alberta with them. Their belongings were shipped from Minnesota by railroad to Wetaskiwin. A small homestead shack had been built so Lars and Anna lived on the homestead with Henry and Emil for a few years.

Brushing and breaking of the land was also a necessary task, so work began. Time went on. Lars became very ill and was the victim of the disease cancer. His sick days were spent at the homestead, with many days of agony and pain. He passed away October 3, 1916. Things must go on. A year later, November 6, 1917, Henry was married to Martha Nysveen, who had immigrated to Canada from Norway in the year 1916. Her first destination was the Rosebush District near Edberg, where she had been working as a hired girl on several farms. When Martha came, Emil built another house and his mother made her home with him.

In the year 1918, the "flu" epidemic struck the district. Several of the families became very ill and some never survived it. Henry was the only one at the Ramstad residence who escaped the illness.

Next, a school was necessary, so it was built and opened in 1919. Miss Evelyn Blackmore (who later became Mrs. Mike Dickey) was one of the first teachers. The school was named "Centennial". It operated for a few years but stood vacant for a time as well. The Norbo school, a few miles away, was torn down in 1949, so the Centennial school was moved to that spot. It was used for a while, only to have the doors closed again. It still remains there.

The Henry Ramstads had three children: Alma, Agnes, and Melvin. They all attended Centennial school, receiving their public school education.

The years went by with ups and downs, but not

lacking courage, they carried on. They remained on the homestead for a number of years. Martha suffered with a very bad chest problem. Much time was spent doctoring, with very little improvement. She passed away in January, 1949, at the age of 56 years.

After Martha's death, Henry remained on the farm for a short time. In 1949 Melvin, the youngest, was married to Gladys Batke. Henry spent most of his later years with each of his daughters. He passed away at Camrose in March, 1966, at the age of eighty years.

Alma, the eldest, is Mrs. T. Eastwood, and lives at Camrose, Alberta. They have two children, Wilfred and Phyllis.

Wilfred and wife Janice live at Camrose. They have two sons, Robbie and John.

Phyllis (Mrs. Doug Phillips) lives at Slave Lake, Alberta. They have a son Danny.

Agnes, the second daughter, is Mrs. Percy Parker. They have been residents of Edmonton for a number of years. They have a son and daughter. Their son David is single and is employed as an economist in Edmonton. Patricia is Mrs. Hugh Murray and lives in Vancouver, B.C. They have two sons, Scott and Michael.

Melvin (the youngest) with his wife Gladys remained on the farm for a few years but sold out and moved to Lacombe where they still reside. They have a family of eight — five sons and three daughters: Gary, Dwayne, Daryl, Annette, Allan, Bernice, Susan, and Calvin. The three youngest are at home; the rest live in the vicinity of Lacombe.

Ralph Elmer Smith Family

In 1906 Ralph Elmer Smith, a one-armed ball player from Missouri, United States of America homesteaded the South-east quarter of Section Six, Township forty-three, Range seventeen, which is six miles north and four miles east of Donalda. In 1910 he married Olga Victoria Bergquist, who had come from South Dakota with her Swedish parents to their homestead near Daysland in 1902.

After marriage the couple set up housekeeping in a two-roomed tar paper covered shack on the homestead. They lived there till 1934 when dust storms, depression and disillusionment caused them to move to the densely wooded Lindale, Alberta area. Both Ralph and Olga took homesteads there.

While on the Donalda homestead, seven children were born to the couple. Hazel, Clarence, Charley, William, Jesse, Doris and Guy. Charley died in 1925 at age of ten when accidentally shot by a .22.

Ralph was the first Secretary-Treasurer of the newly formed School Board when Centennial School



Wearing a hook on his left arm since 17 years of age, Ralph Smith opposed his parents' efforts to have him train for a station agent and chose the homestead life. He must have wondered if he had chosen the best way when harnessing the 5 head of horses used to pull this antiquated one furrow brush breaker. Reins were tied together and put around his shoulder.

was built in 1918. Hazel and Clarence started school January 1919 when the school opened its doors.

At that time there were no roads, very few designated road allowances and almost no trees on what was called the "hardpan".

The Rosalind bridge was not built over the Battle River until 1926. Until then, this was a great drawback because the river could only be crossed in winter on the ice, or forded in summer when water was shallow.

Saskatoons, raspberries and chokecherries were abundant before the advent of range cattle. Chokecherries meant "moonshine making" time along the river, as it must be remembered that prohibition was still in effect till May tenth, 1924.

The Smith's first car was a second hand Model T Ford received from Fred Erickson for breaking up land on his quarter just west of Donalda (village is situated on part of this quarter).

Ralph Smith, even though an amputee (his left arm) broke acres of land using anywhere from five to eight horses and a breaking plow. He did this for both Mike and August Vikse, and Bill Barron's father.

Much of the clothing was fashioned from flour sacks or made over from Olga's trousseau. Even Ralph's orange colored ball suits became small boy's pants after his pitching arm played out.

Homemade bread, wild berries, chickens, eggs, garden vegetables, milk and cream with gobs of homemade butter made an excellent diet. Soap was made from tallow. Homework was done by a flickering smelly kerosene lamp.

Centennial district neighbors were Dave Andersons, Lauritz Pedersons, Frank Stahler, Bill Welches, Tom Prestons, Dad Dickey and sons Mike and Lee and Roy, as well as five Ramstad brothers, Oscar, Emil, Jens, Anton and Henry.

Ralph and Olga's four sons all served in World War II as did the two sons-in-law, and all came home.

The couple are both gone now and interred in Bethany Cemetery beside their son Charley.

Hazel, (Mrs. Sherman Jones) lives at Jasper; Clarence and Jesse at Surrey, British Columbia; William at Houston, British Columbia; Doris (Mrs. Art Smith) at Red Deer; and Guy in Edmonton.

Shirley, the youngest was born on the "out-west homestead" and lives in Oregon, United States of America.

Olga had the distinction of homesteading all her life. Born on one at Del Rapids, South Dakota; moved to her father's in Canada; came as a bride to her husband's at Donalda in 1910 and took a homestead herself at Lindale in 1934.

Donalda Rural

Isabelle and John Baker

John and Isabelle Baker purchased five acres, house and buildings on the S.W. of the fifth section from John and Merry Fisher in April of 1977. Neighbors to this property are Albert and Dagny Norman on the west and John and Judy Swaren and family on the northeast. The view of the coulee on the east is beautiful and Donalda Village is close by.

We moved into the house in June of 1977 with our three sons, Christopher ten years, Steven eight years, and Andrew seven months. Chris and Steven attend Donalda School and Sharon Lutheran Sunday School. Both boys attend Donalda Dairy 4H Club and Steven belongs to Cubs. Chris enjoys skiing in the coulee.

A baby girl was born into the family on the 9th of November, 1978. Janis Mhairi was baptized in the Sharon Lutheran Church on December 10th, 1978.

Isabelle danced in the Ladies Can-Can at Donalda Klondike Nites in 1978 and 1979. She is also a member of the Coulee Ceramists Club.

John was President of Donalda and Community Council in 1978. He enjoys the curling events held in Donalda. He is a licensed heavy duty mechanic, but at present is self-employed erecting farm buildings. The Bakers are presently renovating their home.

Sidney Cram Family

Sid Cram, a native of Brandon, Manitoba, was a Miller by trade, who after several moves, came to Calgary to work at the Robin Hood Mills. He remained there until 1938, when he and his wife Lillian and daughter Marge moved to Donalda to start farming.

They lived in the former Fred Tebow house while they built a home on their farm west of Donalda. Cecil Winter had farmed this land for Sid until the spring of 1939 when Sid started farming for the first time.

Their daughter Marge married August Hammarberg in 1945 and moved to the Hammarberg home-



Sid and Lillian Cram.

stead. While living there, four children were born to Marge and August; Paul, Gay, Aaron and Lynn.

In 1947, Richard Cram, nephew of Sid came to make his home with them after completing his high school education in Calgary. He has remained on this farm since that time. Richard was a 4-H member and later a 4-H leader.

Sid and Lillian bought the John Graf farm and made it their home in 1963. Two years later, Lillian passed away. Sid lives alone and his yard, grass and flowers are a delight to see. Sid has taken an active part in community projects. He has been a director of



Marjorie, Bob Philips, Sid Cram, Lillian Cram, Paul Hammarberg, August Hammarberg. Front row: Gay, Lynn, and Aaron Hammarberg, 1956.

the Donalda Creamery for many years and worked for the Co-op Locker Plant, Up-To-Date R.E.A., Buena Vista Mutual Telephone Company and 4-H Clubs. Sid donated the land for the new extension to the Donalda Cemetery.

Richard is endeavoring to find the identity of persons buried on his land; N.E. 34-41-19-w4. There are two graves and possibly a third on a hillside, north of the Krumm homestead site.

The Fred Ewing Family

In May, 1927, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ewing came with their family of six sons and one daughter May, direct from Motherwell, Scotland (about twelve miles from Glasgow, Scotland) to make their home on the former Olea Queseth homestead; later the farm owned by Ed Grice who had traded his hardware store in Donalda for this half section of land.

The Ewings came on the 2000 Family Scheme Plan. Being raised in the city, they felt that everything was so very quiet on the farm. Here they started up with no water, and no crop for two years. They had never seen frost or snow before. The first snow was most exciting, but the family were very tired of it before spring came.

Imagine learning how to milk a cow and it was a wild one at that! Mr. Ewing drove the school van (horse drawn) for seven years, having 32 children in all to pick up. He would leave at 5:30 in the morning and did not get home until 6:00 at night, having

travelled a round trip of twenty miles each trip for a wage of three dollars per day.

In the seven years that Mr. Ewing drove this van, he only missed getting the children to school one time when the creek had flooded up to the railing of the bridge.

All six sons, Fred, Willie, George, John, David, and Herbert were in the services at the same time during the four years of World War II. George, Dave and Herbert served overseas. Herbert was lost in action after three years of service. Mr. and Mrs. Ewing sold their farm to the Ed Mathesons and bought a farm in the Ibsen district where they continued to farm until they retired to live out their lives in Donalda Village.

Their son Fred passed away in 1960.

Dad Ewing passed away after enjoying many years of retirement in Donalda and his wife a few years later. All three are at rest in Donalda cemetery. Most of the remainder of the Ewing family live at Drumheller.

Haugejorden, McLellan, Bell

The following is a brief chronicle of four generations, spanning a period of seventy five years.

In early May of 1904, the family of Knut and Anne Haugejorden left Norway, their homeland, never to return. Their destination was Alberta, then a district of the Northwest Territories, Canada; their anticipation, the gift of a quarter section of land from the government; their hopes, to build a home and a new way of life in this distant country.

They travelled by boat to New York, over the rough North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, all suffering from seasickness except one child, Nils. From New York the progress was slow and uncomfortable, in a train with no sleeping cars. Again, motion-sickness troubled all but Nils. Wetaskiwin, the nearest point by rail, was reached and a teamster was hired to drive them by lumber wagon to their destination. The country trail was rough and Battle River had to be forded. Finally, Nils succumbed to motion-sickness.

Knut filed on the N.W. ¼ Sec. 34; Twsp. 41; Rg. 17; W4th. This was to be his and Anne's home until they died in 1948 and 1956, respectively. The farm is no longer owned by the family.

Nils enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1918. Another son, Gilbert, enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1941 and served for four years.

Two of the children, Nils and Alice McLellan, remain. Both reside in the Village of Donalda.

The homesteaders met with many difficulties, even sufferings, but being a part of nation building on such a grand and visible scale was a reward that few



The Fred Ewing family taken in 1960, the day of their son Fred's funeral. David, Mother Ewing, George, Dad Ewing, Willie Ewing, daughter May and John.

people experience. They were here when Alberta became a province. They participated in the conversion of raw land into productive fields; they built homes, schools and churches with their own hands. They witnessed the building of the branch railways and the building of the grain elevators that are unique to the prairie provinces. They watched the rapid growth of new villages and towns. Because they were hardy, many lived to enjoy electricity, radios, automobiles and other conveniences. Their achievements were great indeed.

Joel Howard McLellan, his wife Marie, and four sons, Ross, Wilmer, Andrew and Keith arrived at Donalda by train, on a dreary day in March, 1920. Snow lay to the fencetops and from the train window they glimpsed the ruggedness of the coulee below the village. The outlook for farming seemed bleak and their fears were not entirely unfounded. The deep snow melted slowly that spring; no field work could be done before May 24th. For three years on rented land, crops were poor.

In 1923, they bought a farm. The farmstead was located on the S.W. ¼ Sec. 24; Twsp. 41; Rg. 19; W4th. This was the former site of the Harker Post Office and this log building was used as a garage for many years.

The McLellans did not leave a homeland. They were Canadians, having been born in Ontario. Moreover, two previous generations were Canadians because the McLellan family settled in Nova Scotia in 1770.

Howard and his family prospered. By this time, the early struggles of the settlers were largely over. Much land had been broken and machinery was improving. Roads had been built. The village of Donalda was thriving and included a resident doctor. In fact, it is difficult to visualize the rapidity of this early growth.

Howard and Marie made the farm their home until they died at ages 87 and 86, respectively. Their children have moved away or died and the farm is sold.

The McLellan and Haugejorden families were united when Ross McLellan married Alice Haugejorden. Ross owned the north half of Sec. 23; Twsp. 41; Rg. 19; W4th. He built the farmstead on the north-east quarter. While living there, two children were born, James Ross and Ida Deanne.

It was now thirty years since the Donalda area was opened to homesteaders and great progress had been made but still, amenities were few. Without electricity there could be no running water and so the outdoor "biffy" was still in vogue and bathing was done in a tub beside the warm kitchen stove. The fuel

for cooking and heating was wood, cut from aspen poplars on the farm and coal hauled from nearby mines. Food was canned in glass jars or kept cool in the cellar beneath the house. Power for farming was mainly horses.

Money was scarce because the economy was still in the grip of the "Dirty Thirties". But all these things sat lightly on young shoulders and were not thought to be hardships. What became a hardship was the distance from school when James grew to school age.

In 1944, opportunity came to buy land nearer to the village, and so, nearer to school and to the market for farm produce. The family moved to Sec. 1; Twsp. 42; Rg. 19; W4th. The farmstead is located on the south-west quarter.

With this move came much change. More land required the use of a tractor and larger machinery. Fewer horses were kept. Electric power came to the farm in 1951 and with it water on tap. A curling rink had been built in the village and curling became the winter pastime.

The children grew up and went away for further education. On January 25, 1964, the first tragedy struck with the death of James. On November 10, 1965, Ross collapsed and died at the scene of a fire on the farm. His wife Alice moved into the village the following spring.

While employed in Edmonton, Deanne met and married Louis Bernard Bell. After the death of Deanne's father, Louis and Deanne bought the farm in the spring of 1966. They have resided there on Sec. 1; Twsp. 42; Rg. 19; W4th since that time. Their children Kevin Ross, Barbara Anne and Brendan Bernard are growing up there.

These three children are the fourth generation descendants of the McLellan and Haugejorden families and are the only ones of this generation now residing at Donalda. This year, 1979, marks the 75th anniversary of the arrival of their great-grandparents, Knut and Anne, as homesteaders.

Farms have now become fully modernized. Former luxuries have become necessities.

Looking back it is easy to see differences, but we often overlook similarities. The Bell family rides horseback for pleasure and for herding cattle. Their grandparents did the same. Musical concerts and Christmas concerts are enjoyed as much today as they were before. Games and sports are much the same. The winter pastime of the Bell family is skiing. Skiing was enjoyed by their great-grandparents. Many comparisons can be drawn.

The children of today train for sports by jogging. Brendan Bell came home from school and announced

proudly that he had jogged a mile and back. His mother remarked, "That's not new. Your grandmother jogged the same distance, over the same course, for the same reason, fifty years ago." "Oh," he answered, after a moment of thought, "that's why she has lived so long."

Change is inevitable but traditions persist.

The Christian Henrikson Story

In 1910, Betsy and Chris Henrikson started their married life on a homestead four miles south-east of Donalda. Chris worked in the local coal mines to make a living. Their first son Henry was born here. Mother was alone when this first baby arrived, while the anxious father was on his way by team and wagon to summon help. On his way to get Dr. Creighton at Red Willow, he stopped by at a neighbour's home and asked the lady there to go to his wife's aid during his absence. The doctor and father arrived eight hours after the birth to find all well.

After living on the homestead for about four



Chris and Betsy Henrikson, Alma and Henry Henrikson.

years, they sold the homestead and rented Einar Quesseth's homestead farm, the former Lars Larson farm. They purchased the George Quesseth homestead quarter of land in the section across from where they then lived, bought and moved the Chris Quesseth homestead house for a dwelling on this farm and made this their family home for thirty-eight years. In this house six more children were born. Signe was three months of age when she died from whooping cough. Then came Dagny, Bernard, Lilly, Albert (who passed away at one month of age) and lastly Alfred.

The Donalda Lutheran (Sharon) Church was a very important part of their family life and many Pastors and Evangelists were made welcome in their tiny abode. We always rose early on Sunday morning to get the eight to ten cows milked by hand and the other chores done before dressing for church or Sunday School, having to travel by team and democrat, a

distance of three and one-half to four miles. When there was special services at the Ferry Point (Bethlehem) church, (the church affiliated with the Sharon Lutheran Parish), we would travel the twelve miles by team and democrat and be there on time for the morning service. Our father loved animals, and the animals in turn loved him. When it was milking time during the summer months when the cows were milked in the barnyard, one cow especially would follow Dad so close that it was impossible for him to milk another cow until he had milked her.

When his faithful horse Dollie had lived out her life and was about to die, she walked behind my father wherever he went this morning of her passing, placing her nose under his arm until she finally laid down to die.

Mother was most active in Sharon Lutheran Ladies' Aid and was their president for years. She could find time for sewing and knitting for their auction sales and yet sew all the clothes for us chil-



Alfred and Mildred (Marck) Henrikson Wedding.

dren besides helping in the fields and with the chores. She stacked many stacks of hay, also wheat (if the crop was late) rather than wait for the threshers to come late in the season and chance the weather.

In 1952 they moved to Mirror Lake, British Columbia, a small Post Office, three miles out of Kaslo, British Columbia and resided there until 1971. Father and Mother enjoyed their retirement here where Dad could be in the woods on the mountain side above their home and Mother had a yard full of flowers and fruit to work with, enjoying a replica of their native Norway.

After ten years of retirement, Christian Henrikson passed away July 25, 1962 at 87 years and eight months of age. Mother lived on in British Columbia for a few years after Dad's passing, coming to Bashaw Valley Lodge in 1971 to live her remaining years. She passed away February 12, 1979 at 90 years and seven months of age.

Christian and Betsy Henrikson are buried in Donalda Cemetery beside their two babies.

What became of their five living children? Henry, the eldest in the family has been active throughout his adult life in the field of music.

Albin Norman had a special talent for making violins. Henry learned this skill from Albin and developed a love for woodwork as a result.

At one time he accompanied a Piano Duo who were touring the west, travelling with two grand pianos which Henry kept in tune for each concert.

Every summer for several years he was hired by Shaunessey School of Music in Victoria, who conducted workshops, attended by musicians from all over the world.

Dagny always planned on being a teacher, but by the time she completed High School the depression was at its height and at this time there were no government loans to get, in high school during those lean years. Dad had to sell cream from his cows for one month in order to pay the one dollar for each subject we wrote an examination on during the year end while in high school. Dagny went out working in various Donalda homes for ten dollars a month and when cooking for threshers, one dollar per day. It wasn't much money but it sure was good training. After three years of this she was trained to be a housewife and Albert Norman claimed her for wife in 1938. They made their first home on the Ole Norman homestead and five years later bought the Earl Porter place south of Donalda village and have made their home here since 1944. They have one daughter Arleen and one son Byron. Arleen married Arnold Jacobson and they have three children; Sonja, Jeffrey

and Lisa. Her husband Arnold is Vice-Principal of Forestburg School.

Byron married Sharlene Bjorgum of Edmonton and they have two children; Raynelle and Joel. Presently Byron is in his last year of Education at the University of Alberta, Edmonton.

Our children honored us at a Fortieth Wedding Anniversary celebration in July, 1979 at Spruce Coulee.

Bernard Henrikson received his education at Donalda School. He enjoyed school very much and was most active in sports, especially basketball and baseball. He played with the Donalda High School Basketball Team who were the champions at Edmonton Exhibition in 1936. Bernard worked for his father on the farm and did some coal mining during the winter months. Due to illness he had to give up farming. Presently he works for Frazer Vale Frozen Foods Company in their gardens at Chilliwack, British Columbia.



Bernard Henrikson at Chilliwack, B.C. in 1979.

Lilly Henrikson completed her High School at Donalda, after trying a year or so of working in homes in the Kelsey and Rosalind areas. She married Howard Allenson, while he was manager of Revelstoke Lumber Company at Donalda, living at the back of their office for the first year of their marriage. They were transferred to Coronation, then to Innisfail, Calgary and finally Didsbury. At Didsbury, Lilly went into the Variety Store business and Howard had a hardware business adjoining the Variety Store until their retirement in 1976.

Alfred Henrikson was in the Air Force after he completed his schooling. He married Mildred Marek of Bluffton, during this time and have lived in many

places during their marriage. Dry cleaning business is their specialty, having worked in plants at Coronation, Red Deer, Fernie, British Columbia, Vernon, British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Didsbury, and presently lives at Calgary.

Henry Henrikson and Family

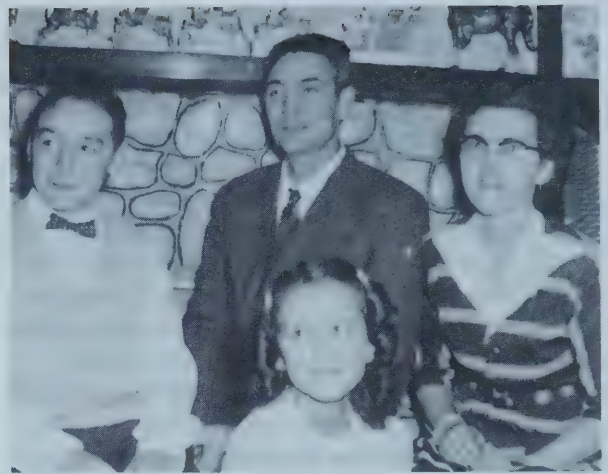
Henry was 19 in the fall of 1929, when he went with Albin Norman in Albin's "bob-tailed" Ford to the Peace River country. When they drove through Edmonton there were no lights, but a traffic cop. He stopped them at 101st Street and Jasper Avenue; then the car stopped. Before it would start it had to be jacked up by the rear wheel, to start on the magneto. They held up a long line of cars and it was most embarrassing. There were just dirt roads then, so when it rained the roads became almost impassable with mud and deep ruts.



Alma and Henry Henrikson Wedding 1937. — wearing her mother's dress.

Henry made application that fall for a homestead, and by residing on it six months of each year for three years he gained ownership of it.

Ever since Henry was sixteen years old, he wanted to be a piano technician. The opportunity presented itself in the Peace, when a neighbor came over and begged him to try to tune his piano. That was the beginning. Henry has tuned pianos for forty-seven years, as well as many other jobs. Jobs were scarce then, so there was time to practise the violin,



Henry Henrikson family, Steve, Henry, Alma, and Janet.

read and do fretwork, as well he carved out four violins with a home made butcher knife. During the depression, back at Donalda he married a neighbor girl, Alma Norman, (1937). Later on, there was a son and a daughter. Steven studied music and is now a professional singer, and a teacher of voice at the Windsor University. Steve also learned the piano trade and always had a job wherever he went, even in Munich, Germany, where he studied for two years at a college and worked in a piano store. He is married, his wife Lilian and two children, Naomi and Rorick. Janet too was musical and became a fine accompanist on the piano for her brother's singing. She now lives in Vancouver and lives an interesting life with her two children, Tara and Locklan, and her husband, Donald Mowatt who is a writer and producer for C.B.C. radio.

Alma has been the home pillar, she too worked on pianos, and has recovered countless piano key boards, as well as refinishing. Now loves gardening, sewing, and keeping the home in beautiful Kaslo, British Columbia.

The Ed Imbery Story

The Edward John Imbery family came from Strathmore, Alberta in August 1973 to make their home at a farm one half mile west of Donalda — the former Albert Komishke farm. They chose to buy land at Donalda as they liked the Donalda area and found the land here the best of all the land they had looked over in Central Alberta.

The Imberys went into the dairy business here, also general farming. Their five children; Tammy, Wendy, Angela, Edward and Kevin all assist with the dairy chores and had 4-H calves.

The entire family are active in sports, especially

baseball. Their daughter Wendy has won first place in cross country races for the past three years. All five children attend school in Donalda.

Irene Melo's Story of the Jack Jacksons

Irene Melo, born on the homestead west of Donalda, presently lives at Prince Rupert, British Columbia with her husband Howard. She is a daughter of Jack Jackson, who homesteaded the quarter of land where Harry Erickson presently lives.

The Jacksons left Donalda in the early twenties for Williams Lake, British Columbia when Irene's brother Bill was an infant. Her brother Glen remained at Donalda with his Uncle, Ed Henley who lived one mile west of Donalda, the farm later owned by Don Peterson.

After Ed Henley passed away, Glen left for British Columbia in 1953 to be with members of his family. Three months later Glen died as a result of a car accident at Terrace, British Columbia, where his brother Bill lives.

J. W. Jackson was the first blacksmith in Donalda. He lived in the house across the street from the Ole Anderson residence, (now the Bob Wotherspoon home). His barn was at the back of the lot and behind that he had his blacksmith shop with a forge in it.

Dan Hines, grandfather to the Jack Jackson children on their mother's side was a mason by trade (brick builder) and built several buildings in Donalda in what was known as the Hines Block, the Oddfellow's Hall being one of them still standing, his own store (general) and a third building were torn down to make way for Don Lawson's shop. Prior to his work in Donalda village he homesteaded in the Skybo district. Dan Hines with Harry Hearonemus, George LaRose, H. S. Hayes and Charlie Hill composed the first school board at Skybo.

The Skybo School was built in 1907 by Dan Hines with volunteer help by interested men. He also built the Hines Dance Hall located northwest of George Salmon's farm where people came for miles around to dance.

Matheson

The Ed Matheson family has lived in Donalda since 1934. The family moved to Donalda from Scotland with a short stay of nine years in Castor.

Members of the family are: Edward (Scotty to his friends), Margaret (Grandma to her friends), Margaret (Meg), Elizabeth (Bessie), Mary, Elspeth, Edna (Baba), William (Willie), Edward (Eddie), Janet, James (Jim), Ruth and John (Johnnie).

Scotty and Grandma have always been farm people — in Scotland as well as here in Donalda. The

farms that were their homes were first of all "The Pleming Place" (½ mi. south of O. Paulsn) followed in succession by "The Baxter Place" (1 mi. south of H. McKay), and finally the old "Ewing Place" (2 mi. east of town). Scotty finally sold the farm to Herbie Whitehorn and then retired in 1951. The retirement years, if they can be called that, have been spent in Donalda.

At the Pleming Place the nearest neighbors and closest friends were Otto and Mabel Paulson. Other good neighbors who helped the family settle were the Bert Jones, Walter Andersons and the Fred Henkes. The material and moral support given by these families made the move to Donalda really worthwhile. This was a traumatic change of environment for the Mathesons — from the bald prairie to the rich black soil area of Donalda along with the unique and picturesque Coulee and the flowing waters of Meeting Creek and Willow Creek. One of their early fears was that the children might "go" lost in the abundant bush. As it turned out there were more lost children occasions in the wheat and barns of Castor than the entire time in Donalda.



3,000 FAMILIES SCHEME FOR CANADA
PASSENGERS BOOKED BY ANGUS MACDONALD, CROWN PASSENGER AGENT
WITNESS EMBARCING ON WHITE STAR LINE "S. DORIC" 6th JUNE 1907

Scotty Matheson — Lower right.

Scotty never did desire nor get a motor vehicle or implement during his entire farming career. He was much more at home with real live horse power rather than a noisy engine. This fact did not hamper nor make his work any less enjoyable; in fact just the opposite is true. He has a great love for horses — particularly those that were his life blood over the years.

The year on the Baxter Place yielded the most fantastic garden that can be remembered. This bountiful garden was shared by many of the neighbors as well as folks in Donalda, including Mr. and Mrs. Rodvick, the Lutheran minister. One other incident is the trouble that the Matheson and Heisz boys got into over breaking windows in an abandoned farmhouse. This one required a visit from the police and

sound thrashings. (Note that the thrashings happened only to the Mathesons).

The Matheson family farmed the McKay place for seven years. Nearest neighbors at the time were Colin and Ethel McKay, Keith and Marguerite Pickering, Ruth and Walter Rochon, and Bob and Belle Smith. These were good farming years and included the one excellent crop that resulted in the Donalda area receiving Grade One for most of it's wheat. This crop along with many others went towards the second World War effort. The children attended Science Mound School and the family participated in the many events of the area and functions through the school and church.

Scotty bought and moved the family to the Ewing Place and operated both farms for a couple of years. During the stay on this farm the family supported itself with cattle, some grain farming, and hauling coal and wood. A familiar sight was Grandma riding a bicycle to and from town.

When the family first moved to the village they lived on the Bert Russel place, just on the north-east edge of town. While living here a fire destroyed the home and all personal belongings. Johnnie was the only one home at the time and he was fortunate to get out before being overcome by smoke. The Donalda folks responded and assisted Scotty and Grandma to get organized again. After the fire they moved to their present home, the former Percy Jones house next to the elevator.

Scotty and Grandma's retirement in 1951 didn't really mean "not working". In fact they never really stopped working. A familiar pair during this time was Bob Holladay and Scotty working with the stock.

To An Old Cow-Hand

May your crop of calves grow bigger
May your range grass never fail,
May your water holes stay open,
May you ride an easy trail.

May you never have to grab leather
Or your saddle horse go lame
May you dab your loop upon a critter
With your old unerring aim.

May your stack of chips grow taller
May your shooting eye stay true,
May good luck plum snow you under
That's my CHRISTMAS WISH TO YOU.

The above verses were written by Ed (Scotty) Matheson in 1954 by bits and pieces as he waited at the stock yards for the farmers to deliver their pigs for marketing.

Many of the Matheson family members moved

away from Donalda but still return to visit many of their old friends.

Meg worked in Donalda for six years for Porters, and Mr. Ed Grice. Meg and her husband Bob Hunter and now retired and live in Edmonton.

Bessie came with the folks to Donalda and stayed but a short time. After helping the Albrights during harvesting she returned to Castor. Bessie and Ashley Gibson are also retired and live at Castor.

Mary worked for several of the folks around Donalda until she and Palmer Rake were married. Mary and her family later moved back to Donalda for a time and now live in Edmonton.

Elsbeth left Donalda to join the Royal Canadian Air Force Women's Division and spent most of her service time in Ottawa. She married Jack McBeath and now they spend their summers in Moncton, N.B. and their winters in Florida.

Edna left Donalda to attend college in Edmonton. She married Bob Grant and still lives in Edmonton. Bob learned never to transplant Silver Willows from Donalda to his backyard. It seems that the neighbors get upset with silver willows growing into their yards.

Willie moved to Victoria and spent his working life in the lumber business. Willie and his wife Mary are semi-retired and are permanent Victorians. He operates his own Ocean Fishing Service.

Eddie left Donalda to join the Royal Canadian Air Force where he spent twenty-eight years in the service. He and his wife Jean have re-settled in Edmonton where he is continuing his career in Computer Systems work for the City of Edmonton.

Janet did not leave Donalda and still lives at home. She is a familiar sight to Donalda residents particularly after the mail is ready to pick up.

Jim also moved from Donalda to Victoria and is still involved in the lumber business. He, and his wife Ida and family seem to prefer milder Victorian winters.

Ruth is still at home in Donalda. She is well known around the town, particularly when community events are in progress in the hall.

Johnnie is the strong Matheson presence in Donalda because he shares ownership and operation of John's Vending Co. His business takes him to many other towns in the area, but his home base is Donalda. From current reports John's Vending is building and expanding and that can only be good for the community.

This brings me to Scotty and Grandma. At the time of writing, Scotty is still in Rosehaven, Camrose where he can receive continuous attention. He will be ninety years on his next birthday in February.

He has spent nearly half of his lifetime in Donalda. Grandma Matheson is certainly well known in Donalda, probably the best known of any of us. She is still involved in pioneer type projects where she is either riding a bike in a parade or dressed up as a Klondiker. Some of the hardships experienced by Scotty and Grandma are now looked upon with fond memories because of the people who proved to be true friends. These friends still enjoy each other's company on the banks of the beautiful coulee in Donalda.

Finally I would like to say that I have written this from my own understanding and viewpoint. I am sure that I have missed many important things that should be mentioned but space as well as the knowledge is limited. Should this book be updated in five or ten years, I hope that I can also update the Matheson record.

Eddie Matheson
Major (Retired)

Carl Nelson

Carl Nelson was born in Sweden and in the early twenties came to Alberta, Canada settling in the Bawlf district. To many like him, Canada was a land of promise, but for those who came just before the depression, life was very hard and disappointing.

Carl spent some time on farms and in coal mines, learning our ways and language, eventually farming on his own. He married an English girl, May Fraser, who had immigrated to Canada, and found work near Bawlf. They farmed in the Willow Park district, later moving closer to Donalda in the Meeting Creek Valley.

He was one of the "coal haulers" of the days of the smaller mines located along the Meeting Creek banks, when everyone depended on coal as their winter fuel. Carl was a good horseman, being proud of his well-kept teams.

They raised a family of six — Freda, Mary, Lloyd, Arvid, Marjorie, and Hilda. One son was lost at birth and lies in the Spruce Coulee Cemetery.

In 1941, they moved to Mission, B.C., where the family grew up, and now have homes of their own in various parts of B.C.

Carl passed away a few years ago and Mrs. Nelson is residing in a Senior Citizen's Home.

The Peter Nordvie Story

Peter and Betty Nordvie farmed in the Forestburg district during the first years of their married life, and here their six children were born, three daughters and three sons. While their family were still young, the

family moved to the Ibsen district of Donalda where they continued to farm. The move from Forestburg took two days, as they walked their cattle from Forestburg to Donalda, spending the night at the Metzner farm half way to Donalda. In the thirties they purchased the Wallace farm across the valley from Donalda and this was their home for many years. After forty-nine years of marriage, Peter passed away suddenly October 20, 1962 while living on this farm. Betty remained on the farm for a few years until she could make arrangements to sell the farm and retire to Donalda village. She was reluctant to leave the old home where her family memories were so dear to her and where her hard work had reached its reward in a growth of beautiful trees, shrubs and flowers. All three sons — Palmer, Clarence and Vernon served overseas in World War Two. Vernon was wounded in action, but recovered, and after the war, returned to Donalda with his wife Lillian (Marshall) of Lieth, Scotland, and infant daughter Anne. After approximately twelve years of living in Alberta, Vernon's wife Lillian, daughter Anne and son Vernon junior (born in Alberta) returned to Scotland where they still reside.



Pete and Betty Nordvie with grandson Vernie Nordvie.

Palmer, the eldest son, married Jean Hayduk of Hines Creek, they have lived continuously at Houston, British Columbia since their marriage and raised a family of six children — Francis, Peter, Ronald, David, Vernice and Carol. Clarence married Betty Yoube of Donalda and farmed in the Beloy district of Alberta where their family of one son Wayne and daughter Judy were raised. They now live at Grande Prairie, Alberta. The three daughters of Pete and Betty Nordvie all married while still at home at Donalda.

Olga married Earl Batke of Donalda and they

have retired at Sexsmith, Alberta where several of their children are living with their families. Olga and Earl's children are Betty Ella, (named after her maternal and paternal grandmothers): Edward, Delbert and Audrey.

Mildred was united in marriage to Roy Batke of Donalda. Their five living children are Orlean, Orville, Dora, Norma and Linda. Roy has been hospitalized at the Veteran's Hospital in Vancouver for a number of years. Mildred is presently making her home at Terrace, British Columbia.

Beatrice married Otto Stanvik of Donalda and farmed in the Ibsen district for a few years. Their six children were all born at Donalda — Harvey, Dale, Patricia, Verna, Douglas and Carla. Otto passed away April 1968. Beatrice and her husband Jim Hansen live at Granisle, British Columbia with their son Trevor.

Peter and Betty Nordvie were active members of Sharon Lutheran Church and its activities. Betty's parents — Ole and Maria Jacobson were founding members of this church. While Betty Nordvie was in her seventies she left her Donalda village home, due to ill health to make her home with her daughter Olga Batke at Sexsmith. Now in her eighties she is a patient in the Auxiliary Hospital at Grande Prairie.

The Old Days

by Elsie Nordvie

This will tell you how I remember the old days around 1911 and later. The land then was quite different from now. There were great prairie patches with quite high grass. There were only fences where homesteads had been taken. Homesteaders drove across prairie and their wagons and buggies left deep ruts from one point to another. There were sloughs all over. Most of them had muskrat houses on them. There were lots of frogs then and I liked to listen to them croak.

There were trees, mostly poplar, and lots of berry bushes. Saskatoons were plentiful, also raspberries, choke cherries and pinchberries.

I can remember when the train track was built at Donalda. We lived at my mother's homestead, which is now where Bert Stanvik lives (north across the valley from Donalda). I used to sit and watch from the hill-side. When the big steam engine came in the morning, I used to call it the big black horse (Svart Hesten). I got to know that when I saw the white steam coming from the engine, the whistle would soon sound. To me this was real interesting. My brother Joe Jacobson worked with the railroad construction gang and in later years worked with the section crew.

Five Generations



The above picture depicts five generations of the Nordvie family. In the back row are the oldest generation, Ole and Maria Jacobson. The middle row shows the next generation, Peter and Betty Nordvie. The front row shows the youngest generation, their daughter Olga Batke, and her children. The family is posed outdoors in front of a dark background.

Newspaper picture of The Nordvies' five generations.

Garter snakes at that time were numerous. There must have been large numbers of coyotes the way they howled at night.

During the Second World War, Mr. Murat operated the movie theatre in the I.O.O.F. hall. Mr. Murat would draw a ticket number during an intermission, and the prize was a war savings certificate. He would advertise his movies by hiring local boys to ring a hand bell, walk around town and cry out the name of the movie. For their efforts the boys would get free passes to the movies.

The Peatman family delivered milk for the Stolee's during the war years. They would pull a hand wagon loaded with milk and cream door to door in Donalda. During the winter they used a sleigh.

Donalda had a golf course as late as the Second World War years. They had sand greens and natural grass fairways. The annual burning of the golf course grass was an event most of the local residents looked forward to. People with wet sacks, rakes, shovels, etc. would keep the fire from spreading into the coulee hills.

Olaf Nordvie was well-known in the Donalda area for the rugs he made out of old rags. The home-made loom he used is now owned by Viola (Mrs. Bert.) Stanvik.

Tycko Persson

Although the Tycko Persson family were far from being homesteaders it almost seemed like that to them when they immigrated to Canada, coming to Donalda in March 1949. They came from Vannas, Sweden and over there most everyone enjoyed the luxury of electricity and other conveniences which few had here. Tycko's wife Ruth found it quite a change to be without running water, a telephone and electric lights. She says that for some time after they had moved, almost every time they came in from outside when it was dark, their hand would automatically reach for the light switch.

Ove, their only son was fourteen years old and Margot, their only daughter was almost ten years old. Ole Erickson, Ruth's brother, helped them get started. For about a year they lived two and a half miles west of Donalda (where Harry Erickson now lives) then bought the former Roy Heisz farm which is two miles west, two miles south and one mile east of town.

Ruth was the only one who knew the English



Tycko Persson on the 10' power binder bought in 1952 for \$810.00. The tractor is a Farmall M.

language. The two children soon learned it from their cousins Harry and Ben Erickson and a few of the close neighbors. Tycko never did learn it well enough to carry on much of a conversation. For this reason they visited quite a little bit with the other "Swedes" in the area — proving how true it is that "birds of a feather, flock together". Ove and Margot went to the Donalda school for a couple of years. Some of the teachers at that time were; Miss Lawson, Mr. Heater, W. Repka and Mr. Ballantyne.

In April 1952, Ruth decided to go back to Sweden to live (they had not sold their farm over there) and Margot went with her. Tycko and Ove batched (Tycko was a good cook and even served turkey dinner to friends and relatives) until 1956 when Tycko decided to return to the old country to live.

During the late '50s and early '60s Ove took employment away from the farm for the winter months. In March of 1962 he married Irene Attfield who grew up in the Vermilion area, but was working for Farm Credit Corporation in Edmonton. With the help of Ole and Emma Erickson, Ove and Irene bought the former Alvin Hilker farm located one mile south and a half mile east of Donalda, where they continue to live. They have three children; Tanya born on leap-year day 1964, Jeanette and Lennart Gustav.

Gordon Attfield

From time to time since 1963 Gordon Attfield has been employed on the Coulee View Farm (Ove Perssons). On July 12, 1969 he married Theresa Prante who was an immigrant from Washington, U.S.A. He continued to work for Ove Persson until the following year when they decided to move to Hughendon, Alberta. In May 1977 they returned to work on the Persson farm but lived about twenty-three miles northeast of Donalda. Theresa was fatally injured near Daysland, Alberta, in a single motor vehicle accident May 9, 1979. Gordon then moved to the former Everett Paul farm (which is now part of the Coulee View Farm since 1978) continuing to work for his sister Irene and brother-in-law Ove Persson.

Olf Dahlin

In December 1975, Olf Dahlin came from Bjurholm, Sweden to live with the Ove Perssons. He came with the intentions of learning English and the Canadian methods of farming. Being on a visiting visa he had to leave Canada withing twelve months of the date on which he arrived here, and did so with the intentions of returning to become a farmer. In September 1977 he came back to Canada as an immi-

grant. In the fall of 1977 he purchased land, the "Tucker" section which is located south and east of Donalda. Olf is still young and single and continues to live and farm with the Ove Perssons, a shirt-tail relation.

Boyd Frostad

Boyd Frostad came to Donalda, April 15, 1977 to be an employee on the Coulee View Farm (Ove Persson). He was born in Saskatchewan of Norwegian parents. Being the eldest member of a fairly large family, back in the 'hard times', he left home at an early age and spent many years working capably and conscientiously on farms in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Boyd is a brother-in-law of the well known purebred hog producer, Bill Allen of Bentley, Alberta.

The Seymours

Leonard Ervin Seymour and his wife Margaret (Maggie Sloan) came to Donalda with their two children, Alvin and Martha (Mattie), from Hale, Michigan, in 1913. They bought the east half of section three and the east half of section 10, Twp. 42, Range 18, from Ed and Will Johnson. They lived in a log house on the N.E. quarter of section three. Mrs. Seymour was a great gardener — she raised flowers of all kinds and some of the first corn, tomatoes and cucumbers of the district. She tried growing peanuts and raised and tested seeds for hardiness for seed companies, including the Experimental Farm at Bowden. She also raised purebred Plymouth Rocks and supplied hatcheries with eggs for incubation.

Alvin attended Olds Agriculture College; he contacted the "flu" and died in January, 1918 at the age of 20.



Seymour's grandchildren: Dickie and David Leboe.

On May 9th, 1934, Donald Van Blarcom found Mr. Seymour lying beside the furrow where he fell off the plow — having died from a heart attack. All the neighbors gathered together and in one day put in the entire crop. After renting out the farm for a few years, Mrs. Seymour sold out and lived with Mattie until her death on January 1st, 1944.

Mrs. Seymour's cousin, Wm. Sloan, was the father of Chief Justice Gordon K. Sloan of Vancouver, British Columbia.

Mattie (Martha) married Alvin O. Leboe, grandson of Peter N. Johnson, on January 1, 1927. Alvin taught High School — two years at Hastings Coulee Consolidated, eleven years at Merna, and one year at Alliance. In 1941 the Leboe's moved to Loos, (saw-milling for a year), then to Edmonton, (Edmonton Post Office and Railway Mail Service) for two years, then back to Loos to spend 15 years logging at Crescent Contracting Co. with sons David and Dick. Mattie and Alvin taught the Dome Creek, British Columbia two room school for 6 years, then Clearwater, British Columbia and finally the Crescent Spur two room school for three years — two miles from Loos. Mattie and Alvin have spent the last ten years in retirement in Kelowna (2331 Aberdeen St.), British Columbia.

Their children all live in British Columbia. David in Chilliwack, Richard at Midway, Isabel (Hindbo) at Spruceview, Doreen (Nickolson) at Spruceview, James at Cache Creek, Benjamin at Vancouver and Thomas at Prince George.

The Van Blarcoms

by Donald Van Blarcom 1907-1937

Clarence Van Blarcom was born January 10, 1884, in a little town named Girard, Michigan. He was the youngest of a family of four boys. He completed his schooling there and taught school for a year or two, following which he went to the larger centre of Kalamazoo, Michigan where he worked as a street car conductor for the city. It was here that he met and married our mother, Alpha Lois Crowther, who at that time worked for the Post cereal company in Battle Creek. They were married on May 5, 1906. At that time our mother worked for a candy company, hand dipping chocolates.

The following year, 1907, he set out to make his fortune. Dad always told the kids that he left Kalamazoo with a double barreled shotgun and a shoe box full of hardboiled eggs for the train ride west. Mother said it wasn't quite that bad. However, he filed on the S.W. 2-42-18-w4, where he built a log house, and mother joined him there the following year.



The Van Blarcom children at the Raymond Carrouthers Homestead home. Rita, Virgil, Donald, Eugene and Joe with Carrouthers.

With the ups and downs best known to farmers they had some very good years, besides raising a family of nine children; Rita, born July, 1909; Virgil — May 18, 1911; Donald — March 10, 1913; Eugene — Nov. 15, 1915; Joseph — January 8, 1918; Irma — April 23, 1919; Mildred — July 11, 1923; Ardis — 1925; and Shirley — June 25, 1935. Of our family five still surviving are Virgil, Vancouver; Donald, Kelowna, British Columbia; Joe, Richmond, British Columbia; Mildred, Coquitlam, British Columbia; and Shirley — Terrace, British Columbia. Rita died of cancer in 1972, Gene was killed in action in 1943, Irma died in 1948, and Ardis died in 1926 while still a baby.

The Van Blarcom farm increased to include the N.E. ¼-2, homestead of Norman Terry, and the N.W. ¼-35-41-18-w4. Fred Norman and Paul Welch each allowed a corner of their places to be chopped to make easy access from the southwest quarter to the northeast quarter — in fact, each one gave up a small 3-cornered piece useless to them, but invaluable to us — no lawyers preparing easements, nor dollars involved, just good neighbors.

In 1907, there were no roads and few fences. It was horses and wagon to Lacombe for trading and supplies. Eventually the railroad reached Stettler and life was easier by about sixty miles. Then in 1913 the railroad and I (Donald) both arrived in Donalda and it became a geographical point in the world.

Education was always one of Dad's chief interests. The way the lines were drawn when Rita and Virgil were ready for school, they were required to ride horseback about six miles across desolate prairie

to Ibsen school — a real danger and hardship to little people — although they were only four miles from the village school. So Dad spent many days and evenings contacting people and arranging meetings in various districts towards establishing the Donalda Consolidated School District #57. The date this was achieved is not known to me, but I started school in Donalda at Easter time, 1919, transported to and from via the van. Dad was then made a member of the school board, and, so far as I recall, continued to serve on the board from that time forward. He also served as Municipal Councillor for a great many years. However, if his name were to be recorded in the annals of Donalda history, it might be as 'Father of Consolidation'.

Frank Fader was the van driver when I started school, and was probably the first for that part. He then lived on the Fred Norman homestead and picked us up first; then across the fields, through Seymours' yard to pick up Mattie, and across his fields, to pick up Henricksons. That section of back roads was infested with more gates than any similar mileage anywhere in Canada. The kids were required to open and close them. For that purpose they had to follow behind and close the gate, then run ahead to open the next before the van had to stop. Then on to the Norbo area where the Stanviks, Hildes, Olsons, Nordvies, Alvebergs came aboard, and so on to school — about a 2½ hour ride. The same thing in the evening. Five hours on the road and five hours in school. Were kids of sterner stuff those times, or is it simply that the now generation is not so severely tested, but could also hack it if need be?

It was not all hard times. The route eventually was rotated so we of our corner went the long way in and the short way home. In the 1920's the Preston family lived on the Paul Welch place with five school-age children. They moved away to



Van Blarcom School Van. Passengers: David Ewing, Raymond Norman, Herbert Ewing, Ralph Norman, Middle row: Eugene Van Blarcom, Dagny Henrikson, Lilly Henrikson, Lorna Alveberg, Myrtle Wood, Bernard Henrikson. Front: Mildred Van Blarcom and May Ewing.

Wenatchee, Washington, and Ed Wood farmed that spread and Lucille and Myrtle became part of the load. Also, about that time the route was changed to include what we called the Lars Larson hill to pick up the Ewings.

Fred Erickson drove this van for a few years, and good horses were a must. Mr. Preston had a team of mules which were of great stamina, and he wanted to sell them to Mr. Erickson to pull the van. Mr. Erickson made some inquiries as to their suitability and refused to buy because these creatures had a reputation as runaways. Tom Preston was not long guessing that his closest neighbor had divulged this trait in those mules, and, needless to say, bad feelings prevailed for a few years, but so did safety for the van kids. Matter of fact, Mr. Preston entered that team in the pulling contest at the Donalda Agricultural Fair one year — yes, Donalda used to hold a 3-day fair each year. Mike Dickie took 1st prize, Van Blarcom took 2nd. The mules tightened the tugs twice and quit! That really hurt.



Donald Van Blarcom — enlisted in R.C.M.P. in June, 1934 — retired at Kelowna.
Joe Van Blarcom of Richmond, B.C.

Another episode about the school van: I was 16 or 17 and going to be riding the van anyway. I was a well proven teamster and wrangler, so Dad got the contract to drive the van and put me in the driver's seat. This was a short lived career because the Board looked upon it as a precedent which would entitle any teenager to drive, and I forthwith became another anonymous passenger. It put a real strain on the whole family to look after the farming and chores before school and after, besides missing a few weeks spring and fall. Those early van drivers were sturdy people — shovelling snowdrifts on the hills to get the students home, frostbitten faces and fingers in the process, and in spring hoping to make it across the bridge when the creek was high from the thaw or a cloudburst.

Things were never all bad. Ours was a great community and social activities took over every Saturday night after threshing when eight or ten families got together, each taking his turn as host — the older ones playing whist, and the younger dancing to whatever music someone could make — Bob Holladay with his accordion, Rita Van Blarcom or Gilbert Haugejorden on the fiddle, or, very often, simply Lloyd Skogstad on his mouth organ. The largest room in whatever house was cleared for dancing, and card tables were placed everywhere else. They were family affairs. Drugs were unknown, and woe unto him who showed up with liquor on his breath. Each family in turn travelled from eight to ten miles by sleigh and team, returning home about 3:00 A.M.

Then there was the time that Christmas dinner was at the Van Blarcoms. Twenty-two people showed up in the late afternoon on a lovely day. By mid afternoon there was a raging blizzard which continued through the night, and all but two people stayed for breakfast. Dick and Albert Rake felt they should go home and look after their livestock. They made it home, but came back the next day for their families.

By 1934 things were real tough for the farmers. The van driving contract made a cash flow of \$3.00 per day for driver and horses. There was little other cash flowing anywhere. I worked two weeks cleaning feed corrals for Bill Kahl at \$1.50 per day — 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. In June that year I left home and enlisted with the R.C.M.P. at \$1.50 per diem. A much more interesting life, if nothing more. Rita and Virgil had long gone from Donalda, both employed with the Bank of Montreal.

By December 1937 the Van Blarcoms realized that they were not getting rich on the farm, so, painful as it was to make the choice, they called an auction sale, and moved to Vancouver with enough money to set up a rooming house business which

Mother managed while Dad got a labour job with Vancouver Waterworks. Shortly after starting this job a small pumping engine refused to start one morning to empty the rain water from a ditch. Dad had fought for many years with the identical engine pumping water on the farm and got the thing going, using desperate know-how and some of his more common non-parlour language, and for the rest of his time with that department was an engineer — his only problem was to keep dry and warm. A few months on that and he found a good job with Canadian Fishing Company where he continued until he retired at the age of 75. In the meantime they lived very good lives, having sold the rooming house and bought their own home. Then in September of 1963, shortly after attending Donaldda's 50th anniversary, mother died. Dad stayed on in the house for a few years when he sold it and made his home with Mildred until he passed on in March, 1974, in his 91st year.

At this point Joe interjects his own recollection of our move to Vancouver. "The start of the Migration as witnessed by Joseph L. Van Blarcom was, in retrospect, rather funny. On December 3, 1937, a Friday I came out of school and met Dad downtown. He said, "What shall we do Joe, sell out and go to Vancouver?" I replied, "We might starve to death there, but at least we won't freeze to death."

We immediately made arrangements with August Vikse to set up a sale for December 16, 1937. On December 6th about 6:00 a.m. we looked west towards Donaldda and observed the Old Donaldda High School spiralling smoke into the cold December air. Would it be presumptuous of me to assume that the old school felt so sad at my sudden departure?

The sale was held on December 16, 1937, and when the dust settled Dad had \$1,036.00 to represent 30 years of hard labour. On December 19th, 1937, we arrived in Vancouver.

One more point should be made regarding Donaldda and the Van Blarcoms. We were the only family between Donaldda and the Battle River who were not related to the rest of the community.

At Dad's funeral, May Norman threw her arms around me like a long lost sister, and pronounced that we were now related to the Larson's, the Normans,

the Paulsons, etc., due to the fact that our son Don had married Arlene McDermid, daughter of Arla, granddaughter of Tony and Cora Larson. Distant as some connections might be, we couldn't have nicer relatives.

In the light of this relationship, Phyllis and I arrived in Donaldda about 11:30 a.m., July 14, for the 1979 Homecoming, with a feeling of considerable pride and a sense of belonging to many people whom I had not seen for 45 years, and she had never met. The cold drizzle which prevailed as we watched the parade was soon over and replaced by the warmth and cordiality of the people, and admiration for those who worked so hard and planned the occasion so well. They were a memorable two days for us. And, last, but not least, Phyllis and I would like to say that we were very happy to have been included in the celebration at Spruce Coulee of the 40th anniversary of the marriage of Dagny and Albert Norman, which seemed to leave few people of the weekend anywhere else.

Ed Woods

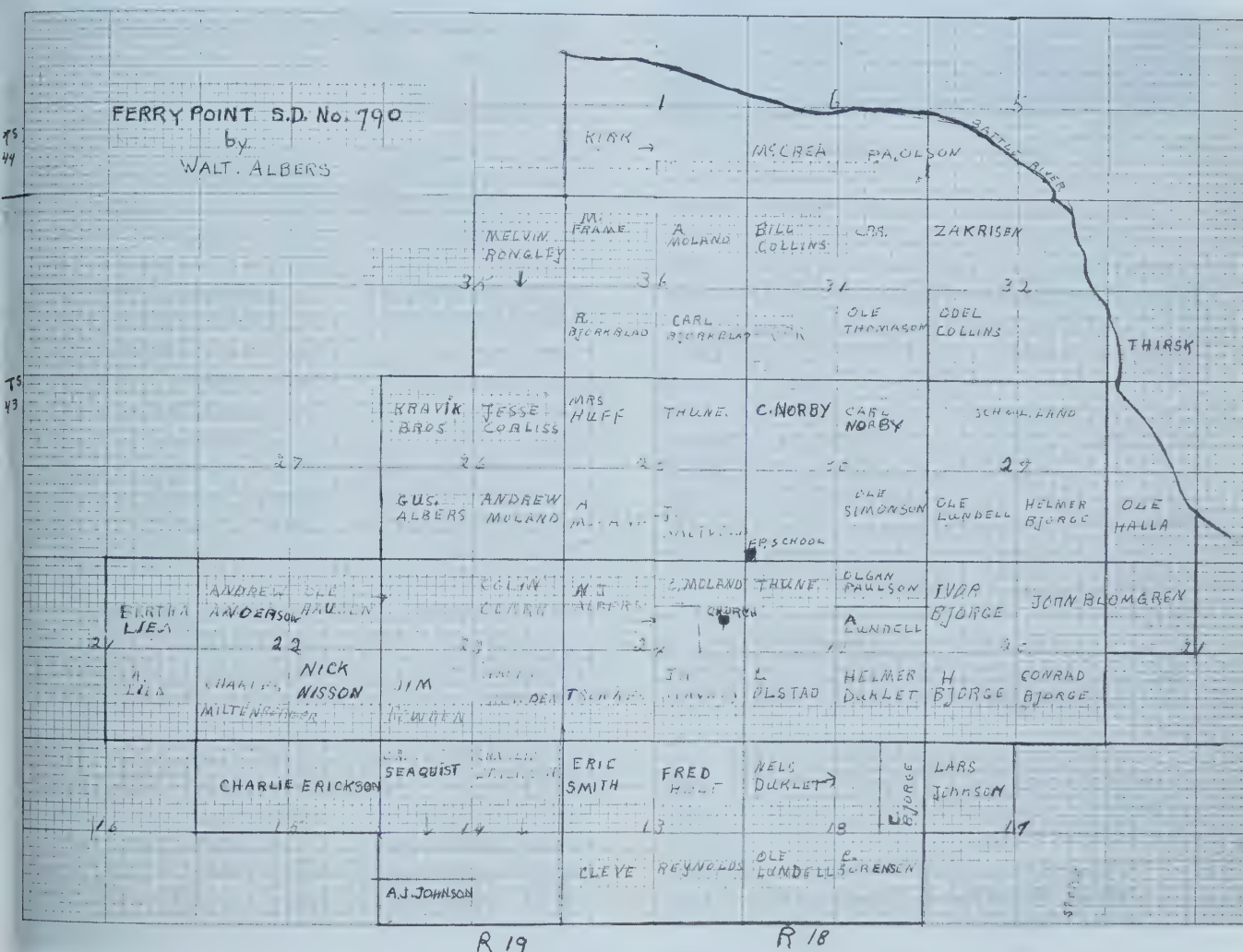
Ed Woods, with his brother George, came to the Donaldda district from Idaho in the early part of the century. Being budding cowboys, they soon found employment with the ranchers, so decided to stay.

Ed met and married a young widow, Nellie Rayner who, with her young son and daughter, was keeping house for Samuel Dickey. Nellie had come from Iowa to her brothers John and Wesley Clement, southeast of Donaldda.

George married Ella Liesinger and returned to the States.

Ed and Nellie farmed in the Willow Park district and 2 daughters, Lucille and Myrtle, were born to them. Later, they moved to the Tom Preston (now Verner Norman place) east of Donaldda; a short while on Ove Perssons farm, then in 1937 retired to Washington, where they both passed away. Mrs. Woods' son and daughter passed away many years ago. Lucille (Mrs. Jesse Pitts), and Myrtle (Mrs. Fred Holm), now a widow, live in Oregon, their families now grown and mostly settled near their parents.

Ferry Point School District



Bethlehem Lutheran Congregation (Ferry Point)

On January 4, 1904 a small group of Christians met at the Iver Bjorge home and Bethlehem Congregation was organized, a constitution adopted and officers elected Reverend J. H. Stavney who then served the community was the Pastor, A. Moland

was elected Secretary, E. G. Sand Treasurer. Deacons were Iver Bjorge and Gunner Olson. Trustees were Johannes Anderson and Ole Paulson. Sunday School Superintendent was Iver Bjorge. The charter members were Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Sand, Mr. and Mrs. Iver Bjorge, Mr. and Mrs. Gunner Olsen, Mr. and Johannes Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Moland and Ole Paulson.



Ferry Point Church.

The work started by these few members was not an easy task, as they had no church, Prayer, devotional meetings and ladies aid were regularly conducted in homes. Services at first were held in the homes and later in the school house. They were all faithful in attending, even if they had to walk there. Parochial School was conducted for several weeks during the summer months. On March 29, 1905 it was decided to build a church. Building committee elected were Iver Bjorge, E. J. Sand, and Johannes Anderson. Material for the building had to be transported long distances with horses and wagon.

The first congregational meeting was held at the church on August 30, 1905. In this year the congregation was incorporated under the laws of Alberta. In 1910 the Young People's Society was organized, the Sunday School January 4, 1904, the first superintendent being Iver Bjorge and Gunner Olsen as assistant.

In 1910 an organ was purchased for the church for \$95.00 and was the only instrument used for a organ in the church; the bell for the church in 1914 and Concordias in 1920.

The Bethesda Ladies Aid was organized September 1903 for the purpose of supporting Parochial School, the Lutheran Free Church and Foreign missions. It was held in the homes of Mrs. I. Bjorge; Mrs. N. Duklet; Mrs. E. Sand, Mrs. G. Olsen, Mrs. J. Anderson, Mrs. Korstad, Mrs. Moland, Mrs. Bjorkelad, Mrs. Erickson and Mrs. Hanson, and Reverend Stavne's home. The 1904 officers were; President Mrs. Stavne; Vice President Mrs. Seaquist; Secretary Mrs. Moland; Treasurer Mrs. Sand. These ladies enjoyed meeting their neighbours and friends in Christian fellowship at these meetings and the

fellowship in the different homes having come as strangers to the new land. Through the many years they have had many visiting Pastors, missionaries and laymen and these special meetings were often attended by Sharon Lutheran members who were a part of the Parish. The church building is now maintained by interested folks who formed an Historical Society in the Ferry Point district. Every summer they have a picnic and sell memberships into their Society for the purpose of raising funds for upkeep of the church. In the cemetery behind this church rest many of our brave and faithful pioneers. They have not worked in vain!

It has been proposed that this church become an Historical Site.

Ferry Point Cemetery

Alfred O. Quesseth	W. H. Collins
Mabel B. Olson	Alta Reynolds
Hjalmar R. Stanvik	Charles Albert Seaquist
Olaf C. Duklet	Maria Sorenson
Stephen Solmonson	Hjalmer Stanvik
Josefina Brandt	Caroline Sorenson
Alfred Anderson	Benedicte Kneeland
Ernest Telman	Kaja Hanson Sather
Myrtle Korstad	Nellie Olafson
Jesse Lien	John Adolf Beckman
Clara Derwanz	Annie Ramstad
Mrs. Ronnoug Haugen	Olga Arneberg
Niclaus John Albers	Claude Collins
Charles Norby	Allen O. Frang
Charles Miltenberger	Olga Alfina Anderson
Alma A. Blomgren	Baby Saltvold
Hjalmar E. Bjorge	Ole Andrew Moland
Sigfrid Johnson	Peter A. Olson
Jonas Anderson	Karen Duklet
Anna Larson	Edward E. Olsen
Daisy Alvina Korstad	H. M. Korstad
Hans S. Hanson	Brian Wilson
Iver Bjorge	Baby Kasa
Nils Olson Duklet	Baby McCrea
Kristine Anderson	Oscar Alfred Olson
Lars Olson Ramstad	Mary Kravik
Nils M. Tellman	Mary Ramstad
Martha Sand	Johan Theodore Jacobson
Eskel Sand	Laurence E. Saltvold
Egel Langmo	Martha Ramstad
Lars Hanson	Ole Flohr
Hegbart Olson	Cleveland Reynolds
Ole Lundell	Ames Allen Blomgren
Julias Olson	Chester Moland
Ruth Marie Thompson	Amund Nesmoen
Samuel Hanson	Betsy Erickson
Mr. Johnson	Ole Haugen

Ulrick Klevgaard
 Dorothy Norma Bjorge
 Gorgina Blomgren
 Geline Tomine Ramstad
 Martha Olsen
 Henrietta Hanson
 Melvin Olsen
 Ole Christian Kasa
 Emma Olsen
 Anton Ramstad
 Kristina Sophia Wold
 Leo Alfred Kravik
 Helmer Bjorge
 Martin Klevgaard
 Margaret Elizabeth Albers
 Albin A. Blomgren
 Anna M. Seaquist
 James John Bowden
 Gustav Robert Lundell
 Bertha S. Frang
 Gerner O. Olsen
 John Kravik
 Leonard E. Kneeland
 Henry C. Ramstad

Olina Thompson
 Marcus N. Langmo
 Josephine Ramstad
 Oscar Bakke
 Nora Duklet
 Henrietta Korstad
 Lyle Bruce Sand
 Marie Olson
 Ole Hanson
 Louis B. Kravik
 Edgar T. Saltvold
 Alfred Lien
 Johan Fred Carlson
 Helmer J. Duklet
 Henry Bjorge
 Olvin Flohr
 Minnie Lien Ramstad
 Leah LaVern Johnson
 Margaret Wilson
 Allen Wilson
 Gunnar Olsen
 Ingrid Ramstad
 Eling Kravik
 Lloyd George Bjorge
 Samuel Knutson
 Elvina Olsen
 Emma Quesseth
 Christian Sorenson
 Wilhelmina Ramstad
 Peter H. Korstad

Selma A. Lundell
 Christine Norby
 Gustav Brandell
 Ole Larson
 Gustav Lundell
 Fredrick Hieby
 Theodore Heinik
 Melda Anderson
 Knut Knutson
 Bertha Derwanz
 Geneva Olsen
 Lena Liens
 Eric Smith
 Conrad Bjorge
 Agnes Amalia Olsen
 Elvinous F. Sorenson
 Carl Anderson
 Olina Olsen
 Sissel Haugen
 Ellen Schiele
 Christian Frang
 Ole Halla
 Andreas Moland
 Mary Kasa

Anne H. Bjorge
 Christian Martin Wold
 Karen Hanson
 Hans Emert Bjorge
 John Trotland
 Maggie Collins
 Hans John Olson
 Maurine Kasa
 Maurice Kasa
 Carl J. Erickson
 Chester M. Lien
 John August Blomgren
 Mole Moland
 Jens B. Ramstad
 John Jacob Albers
 Obert Andrew Olson
 Thina Hanson
 Anton Olsen
 Chris Hanson
 Daniel Beyerstein
 Oscar E. Olsen
 Andreas Duncan McRae
 Charlie Thompson
 Errol Barry Wilson
 Elmer Melvin Sand
 Ingeborg Flohr
 Kari Arneberg
 Gordon G. Kasa
 Edwin Lien
 Martha Louise Albers

Klara Olson
 Marias Jacobson Langmo
 Ottman Olufson
 Mattias Schiele
 Fred Jacob Rosekrans
 Oscar Alfred Kravik
 Oscar Juluis Ramstad
 Emma S. Saltvold
 Joseph C. Saltvold
 Emma Johanna Langmo
 Alma Bernice Jerstad
 George Duklet
 Lewis Bernice Ellingson
 Andrew Anderson
 Baby Blomgren
 Marie Hanson
 Elias Olson
 William L. Thompson
 Bennie Hanson
 Emma M. Wilson
 Arthur Bjorge
 Henry Frang
 Caroline Hall

Randine Tollefson
 William E. Hall
 Gullik K. Saltvold
 Nels Tollefson
 Lawrence Ramstad
 Edward Ramstad
 Charlotte Hanson
 Dwight Cantelon
 Darren Troy Batke
 Harold Shoults
 Johannes Anderson
 Luther Ramstad
 Charles Brandell
 Esther Brandell
 Torwald Ramstad
 Selmer Kravik
 Peter Langmo
 Bryan Wilson
 John H. Hanson
 Elsie Seaquist
 Robert John Lien
 Anna Beckman
 Stella Olufson

Ferry Point School by Berit Hagen

The Ferry Point district was organized in 1904. A school was built two and a half miles west of the river crossing of Ferry Point. This was a more centralized location for the many homesteaders on the south side of the river. The school was located on S.W. 30-43-18-w4 on land belonging to Joe Saltvold. This land is now owned by Mike Saltvold, a grandson of the original owner.

When the rural pupils were bussed to Meeting Creek and Edberg, the old Ferry Point school was moved to Bashaw, where it was used as a classroom for a couple years. Later it was renovated and made into a teacherage, and later a residence.

At that time Edgar, son of Joe Saltvold cleared the school site and built up a fine farmstead. He resided there until his passing.

Ferry Point School District #790 Teachers 1904-1949

Miss Eva Anderson (Sister of Mr. Bob Anderson of Kelsey)
 Mr. Quantz
 Mr. Carmichael
 Mr. Leach
 Mr. Ross Shepherd (Superintendent of Edmonton Schools for many years)
 Mr. Morton McIntyre (Later became a well known dentist in Edmonton)



Ferry Point School — 1927. Back Row — Mrs. Stewart, Roy Albers, Walter Hanson, unknown, Lyman Mathews, Olaf Simonson, Mary Clark, Edgar Saltvold, unknown, Arnold Anderson, Marie Thomason, Ted Johnson, Agnes Saltvold, Clara Arneburg, Gladys Mathews. Second Row — Hazel Collins, Helen Haugen, unknown, Alice Tollefson, Norma Saltvold, Hazel Anderson, Thelma Paulson, Alma Albers, Geraldine Clark, Evelyn Broughton. Seated — Daisy Albers, Ruth Johnson, Marion Paulson, Irvin Paulson, Lawrence Olsen, Omar Broughton, Dave Saltvold, Christian Thomason.



Ferry Point ball team in the early 1930's. Front Row — Wilfred Anderson, Reuben Haugen, Clarence Holt, Ernest Holt, Gus Albers, John Albers. Back Row — Phil Rigley, Hjalmer Odegard, John Rigley, Walt Albers, Gullick Saltvold, Tommy Albers, Roy Albers.

Mr. Steele

Mr. J. I. Jones (Later became a lawyer and practised for many years in Manville, Alberta)

Mr. Jack Hamilton (Killed in action in First World War)

Miss Hazel Adams

Miss Eva Clay

Miss Minnie Ringwall

Mr. Halley Henry

Mr. Ernest (Dad) Winter

Mrs. Pearl Stewart

Mrs. Vera Clooney

Miss Lillian Wilson

Miss Rita Mercer

Miss Inga Oberg (Six years — 1931-1937)

Miss Clara Arneberg

Miss Elva Smiley
Miss Marie Soderstrom
Miss Phyllis Lien
Mrs. Clara Beyerstein
Miss Helen Haugen
Miss Bernice Bateman
Miss Phyllis Lien

Nicholaus Albers

Mr. and Mrs. Nicolaus Albers were both born in Germany in the 1860's. In their late teens they emigrated to the United States a few years prior to the rest of their families. It was here that they met and were married in Luverne, Minnesota in 1887.

They farmed around there until 1895, when they moved to North Central Texas with their three small children John, Anna and Gustav. About a year later they decided to leave there because of the very dry conditions. They packed all of their belongings in a covered wagon and drove to the Gulf area, just north of Huston. One day on this journey, Gus, who was about four years old, was fooling around and fell out of the wagon. A wheel passed over him. It quieted him for a few days, but other than that no harm was done. Southern Texas was very wet and Mrs. Albers contacted malaria. The family then went back by



Taken around 1900. Gus, John and Anna Albers.



Taken in 1910. Daisy and Walter Albers.

train to southern Minnesota. They took up farming again at Flandreau, South Dakota and later at Pipestone, Minnesota.

In the fall of 1906, Mr. Albers terminated the lease on his land and planned to move to Alberta in the spring of 1907, with his livestock and equipment. There was a severe shortage of feed in Alberta that spring, due to the long hard winter of 1906-07. Because of this, Mr. Albers could not get a boxcar for his effects, so he had an auction sale. The family then went to Montesano, Washington where the men worked in the lumber camps for a year.

In March 1908 they came to Alberta. Walter was just three weeks old. Gus, Anna and John were seventeen, eighteen and nineteen respectively. They came to the Ferry Point district where Nick, as he was known to everyone, had previously purchased from a speculator the N.W. 24-43-19-W4. The reason he bought that particular quarter was because it joined his homestead, which was a forty acre piece of land next to the Ferry Point cemetery. Since there were no buildings on their land, the family lived for the first year in a dug-out and the boys in a tent on Mr. Nick Nisson's farm. The family had known him in Minnesota. That land is now owned by Kenneth Wold, but for many years belonged to John Albers. In the spring of 1909 they moved into a new log house on their own farm. A few months after that Daisy was born.

After arriving in Alberta, Mr. Albers spent most of his time working on the farm. Many buildings had to be erected and the land cleared. All the cutting of trees and grubbing of roots were done by hand.

Nick was a very good musician and played several instruments. In the states he had been in bands, but in Canada played only for his family's enjoyment.



Taken 1945. Anna, Mrs. Albers, Daisy and Walter.

In 1913, at the age of fifty-two years he died from complications following Typhoid fever. During his illness which lasted about three weeks, Dr. McLeod made thirteen trips from Ferintosh by way of his own horse and buggy. Dr. McEachern from Bawlf also made several trips by livery.

Over the years Mrs. Albers boarded many of the school teachers as they lived only a mile from the school. She stayed on the farm until 1944 when she moved into Edberg. Her last years were spent in Calgary where she died in 1963 at the age of ninety-five.

Walter started farming the home place in 1925 and continued living there until 1974 when he retired and moved to Camrose. In 1943 he married Jean Kennedy of Kelsey. They have two sons, Ron and Blair. Ron is still on the original Albers farm and Blair is attending university in Edmonton.

In the early years, getting an education was much more difficult than now. At first only grades one to eight were taught at Ferry Point. By the time Walter and Daisy were finished public school, grade nine

was taught. Daisy was also able to get her grade ten there. The teacher at that time, Dad Winters, helped several students with home high school subjects. A few even came from other districts to further their education. Daisy went to Calgary to finish high school and then attended Normal School in Camrose. She lived and taught school in Yellowknife for many years. She now resides in Calgary with her husband Curt Halladay. Their married daughter Janice, also lives there.

John Albers

John married Martha Christians from Red Willow. They lived in the Ferry Point district from 1915 to 1944. They had three children, Tommy, Roy and Alma. Tommy lives in Ponoka, Alberta. He has two sons, Jim and Doug and two daughters Joan and Diane. Roy is retired and lives at Seba Beach in the summer and Arizona in the winter. He has two sons, Bill and Don who reside in Edmonton. Alma and her husband, Bud Olson, also reside in Edmonton.



Taken around 1920. Front Row — Tommy, Alma, Roy Albers. (Martha and John's children). Back Row — Daisy and Walt Albers (uncle and aunt of children).

When Meeting Creek had a band in the early years John played in it. He also helped manage the Ferry Point ball team. His sons, Tommy and Roy and brothers Gus and Walter played on that team. John died of pneumonia in 1944. Martha then moved to Edmonton where she lived until her death in 1960.

Gus Albers

When his dad died, Gus came home from working in B.C. to do the farming. He lived with his mother until 1922 when he moved to his own farm, the former Ivor Bjorge place. By this time he was



Gus and Laura Albers golden wedding 1967.

married to Laura Wendt from Edberg and had two children, Freddie and Ailene. Cliff and Jean arrived later. In 1936 Gus and his family left Ferry Point and moved to Busby where they operated a store and had a small trucking business. They then lived in Edmonton for a few years before moving to the Vancouver area. Laura passed away in 1971 and Gus in September 1979. Freddie lives in Burnaby, B.C. He has two children, Bob and Marilyn. Aileen and her husband Carl Reimer live in B.C. as well as her five children; Terry, Patrick, Reid, Sandra and Cheryl. Jean and husband, Malcolm Murray, live near Ottawa. They have two daughters, Morgan and Laurie. Cliff's two daughters, Barbara and Rita live in Vancouver, but both Cliff and his wife passed away several years ago. Cliff had always suffered from asthma, and that is the main reason his parents left the farm.

Anna (Albers) Ellingson

Anna Albers married John Ellingson. They farmed at Dorenlee until 1944 when they moved to Calgary to retire. They had one daughter Marguerite, who died at the age of nineteen. While attending high school, she developed diabetes and later T.B. Johnny passed away a few years ago, but Anna is still living in Calgary.



Anna (Albers) Ellingson in 1907.

Marguerite had completed high school and taken a business course. Being quite musical her parents had given her a fine oak piano. After her death the Ellingsons left the farm. Then Jean and Walt Albers acquired the piano, and when they retired to Camrose it was purchased by the Bethany congregation, north of Donalda.

The Raymond Bjorge Family

Raymond Bjorge, son of Helmer and Hattie Bjorge, was born in the Jonas Johnson house, one mile south of Bethany Church. Later his father bought a farm in the Ferry Point district and there they made their home. Raymond took all his schooling at Ferry Point. He served in the Airforce until 1945. After his discharge he bought his Uncle Edwin Bjorge's farm.

May Bjorge was born at Forfar, Scotland. She came to Donalda with her dad and mother, (Arch and Rhoda Whamond) and brother Archie, when she was four years old. She went to school at Ibsen and Donalda. She joined the Airforce and served for three and a half years. When discharged she was hired by the County Office in Camrose to help with land assessments. She supervised at Ibsen and Bonnie Brae School. At the time of their marriage she was working at the Royal Bank in Camrose. She had to give up her job as at that time married women were not employed by the Royal Bank. Raymond was



May and Ray Bjorge's Twenty-fifty anniversary 1974.

working on an oil rig so they lived in Camrose until the spring.

When they moved to the farm they were the only living things on it. They had a nice looking little house but it was so cold in winter that water would freeze in the kettle overnight. That winter they had it insulated before their first son Ron was born. Rick was born the following year. The house was getting too small so they built a new house and moved in just before Dean was born. Their old house was bought by Seth Johanson and moved to Donalda where it still stands.

The children attended Meeting Creek School. Ron and Rick took Grade twelve in Camrose, Dean and Susan in Edberg.

Ron and his wife (Linda Olson) live in Valleyview, Ron is biologist, Linda teaches High School. Rick is a 4-H Specialist at Fairview. Dean bought the old John Akland place from Angus Olsen where he built a new house. He was married to Fay Carlson in 1977. They have one son Robert. Susan attends University in Edmonton.

Nils Duklet

Nils and Karen Duklet were married in Climax Minnesota. They had come with their families from Norway. Karen was the daughter of Ingebret and Marit Bjorge. They came to Canada in 1902 with Karen's brothers. Their children were George, Emelie, Mina, Helmer, Nora and Olaf. They were all born in Minnesota. They homesteaded S.W. 19-18-W4 in the Ferry Point district. Emelie and Mina married brothers, Jonas and Henry Johnson. Nora,

Helmer and George never married and farmed the home place. Olaf died at nine years of age.

When Mina was in her teens she had diphtheria. She was sick for sixteen weeks and had to learn to walk all over again.



Nils Duklet Family. Back — George, Nils, Emelie, Karen, Mina. Front — Helmer, Olaf, Nora.



The Nils Duklet family — back — Emelie, Nora, Mina. Seated — George and Helmer.



Mina Duklet playing the organ she received as wages for doing housework.

The family was active in the Ferry Point church, often Pastors and Parochial school teachers would stay in their home.

The girls were good in all the home making arts. They enjoyed cooking and different kinds of hand-work. The boys were handy carpenters. Nieces and nephews enjoyed staying at Duklets.

Nora, Helmer and George moved to Camrose in the late forties.

Nils, July 17, 1850 — August 17, 1915. Karen, September 19, 1858 — January 10, 1938. George, April 1, 1887 — November 1, 1961. Emelie, April 17, 1888 — December 3, 1978. Mina, August 19, 1891 — May 11, 1960. Helmer, May 7, 1894 — June 10, 1971. Nora, October 14, 1896 — June 10, 1967. Olaf, May 31, 1900 — March 2, 1909.

Carl Johan and Betsy Erickson

Carl and Betsy Erickson were married in 1886 and homesteaded in Wilkin County, Minnesota until the year 1901. Carl left Barnsville, Minnesota early in July 1901 travelling with a neighbor, Charles Seaquist to locate a homestead in Canada. He arrived in Wetaskiwin on July 8th. He drove by team from Wetaskiwin to what was later to be known as the Ferry Point district. The homestead he filed on was the N.E. 14-43-19-w4. Mr. Seaquist taking the quarter section next to his. The family followed later in July.

They had three daughters, Jennie (Mrs. A. J. Johnson), Ellen (Mrs. E. L. Holt) and Annie (Mrs. F. Dyer). Jennie was fourteen, Ellen ten and Annie five



Carl and Betsy Erickson with daughters 1941: Jennie (Mrs. Johnson), Ellen (Mrs. Holt), Anne (Mrs. Dyer).

years of age at that time. The original homestead house still stands (with many renovations) and is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Pearce.

Their first post office was Duhamel which also had a small store. Mr. Erickson would drive to Wetaskiwin for larger supplies of food, etc., the round trip taking about four days. The first crops were oats and barley which grew very well. Wild fruit such as raspberries, strawberries, saskatoons, gooseberries and cranberries were found in abundance.

Carl and Betsy celebrated their golden wedding in December of 1936. Sam and Kitty Pearce hosted that event in their home, which at that time was the Seaquist homestead house.

Carl (sometimes known as Charlie) Erickson was born in 1859 and passed away August 1941 at the age of eighty-two years. Betsy Erickson was born on March 3, 1862 and passed away June 23, 1950 at the age of eighty-eight years.

Jennie Erickson (Mrs. A. J. Johnson) was born on November 22, 1887. She married Alex Johnson who at that time had a homestead in the Heather Brae district. She had three children, Alice, Teddy and Violet. Alice married Jim Sheets, they had six children; Phyllis Weldon of Red Deer, had three children. Bob Sheets of Lacombe, has two children; Ray Sheets of Calgary, has two children; Jean Weldon of



House of Erickson Homestead, now home of Sam Pearce.

Whitecourt has four children; Joyce Crosbie of High River has three children; Roy Sheets of Kelvington, Saskatchewan has two girls; Teddy Johnson of Regina, Saskatchewan had twelve children; Arlie, Joyce, Arlene, Royce, Barry and Doris. Violet Johnson married Roland Thomas. They had four children, Delores, Rodney, Maxine and Sandra. Jennie and Alex lived at Edberg for many years, moving to Camrose in the later years. Jennie passed away August 25, 1963 at the age of seventy-five years. Alex passed away January 1964 at the age of eighty-seven years.

Ellen Sophie Erickson (most commonly known as Ella) was born July 1, 1891. She married Ernest Holt (Huolt) son of the pioneer Andrew August Huolt, of Fridhem district. She had one son, Clarence Edward, who now lives in Edmonton. He and his wife Jessie had three children, Gwen Jenson lives in Calgary and also has three children. Jim Holt married and lives in Grimshaw, Alberta. He has one girl, Brenda Fast who lives in Edmonton and has one girl. Ernest and Ella lived in the Ferry Point district until the summer of 1946, when they retired to Camrose. Ernest passed away October 24, 1952. Ella passed away January 6, 1956.

Anne Erickson (Mrs. F. Dyer) was born April 29, 1896. As a young woman Anne left Alberta, going to Minneapolis with Mary Corliss (who some may remember) where they were in the hairdressing business together. They later moved to Santa Monica, California, where they did home nursing. Mary passed away years ago. Later in life Anne married a retired minister, Dr. Frank Dyer in Santa Monica. He passed away at the age of ninety-two. Anne now lives in the California Christian Home in Rosemead, California, and is eighty-three years of age.

Everett and Selma Hagan

Everett was born December 22, 1906 in Gottenburg, Nebraska, and came to Canada with other

members of his family when he was six years old. They settled two miles north of Meeting Creek. Later he played ball with Ferry Point, then Meeting Creek and Donalda.

Selma Dahl was born in Doreenlee June 11, 1907. She moved with her parents, sisters and brothers when she was three and a half years old to the Meeting Creek area. She went to school at Buena Vista one year, and then to the Hazel Grove school. She played basketball with the Meeting Creek girls.

On April 22, 1927 Everett and Selma were married. They farmed in the Meeting Creek area a few years; then they moved to Donalda and farmed there three years. They farmed Charlie Batke's land and also Fred Erickson's land. Then they settled on their farm two and a half miles southeast of Ferry Point, ten miles northeast of Donalda.

They had four children; Everett, DeVere, Cordella and Phenetta. They went to school at Ferry Point until the school closed; they rode to school by bus to Meeting Creek. They went to Sunday school and were confirmed in the Ferry Point church.

Selma attended the Ferry Point Ladies Aid as well as the Bethany Ladies Aid. Everett farmed with horses at first which meant hard work, walking behind harrows all day in a soft field.

Selma raised a large garden with a variety of tame fruit, flowers, shrubs and trees.

In 1936 their neighbors were Sigurd Broughton, Alfred Anderson families to the east, Robert and Carl Lundell families to the south. To the west were the Odegard brothers and Cleve Reynolds, and to the north were the Fred Christians family, the Duklets, Arthur Bjorge and Joe Saltvold. The neighbors were kind and helpful in many ways. Selma did hair permanents, cut hair and also sewed while Everett helped out in the veterinary field.

The Hagan family enjoyed curling in Meeting Creek and also the big 'get togethers' on Saturday nights. Meeting Creek was a very busy little town with curling, square dancing and Sports Days in summer.

Everett (Sonny) did janitor work at the Ferry Point school (built the fire and swept up after school for ten cents a day). He thought he was rich when he earned \$10.00. DeVere sang at concerts and at amateur programs when he was a small boy. Ruby Broughton, Elva Smiley and Selma Hagan also sang at different functions. Cordella played hockey on the Meeting Creek boys hockey team for a few winters. Phenetta joined Capable Cooks for year.

DeVere went to college for one year and took one year of University at Edmonton. Cordella also spent one year to Camrose Lutheran College.

Everett and Gale and their family live in Edmonton (Hagan Appraisal Services Ltd.). DeVere and Marge and their family also live in Edmonton (PCL Construction) formerly Poole Construction. Cordella and Fred Schwengler and their boys live in Calgary (Calgary Separate School Board). Phenetta and Mike O'Brian and five girls live on an acreage out of Spruce Grove (Trucking Service). Everett and Selma retired to Camrose in 1974.

The Hagans have many pleasant memories of the years they lived in the Ferry Point District.

T. A. Haugseth Story

by T. A. Haugseth

When I first came to Hansons mine in the fall of 1935, I came mostly for a visit, but I got a job at the mine as carpusher and hoisting coal. I did not like the underground work much so after two winters there, I left for Nelson, British Columbia. After two years there, I came back and bought half of the shares in the Hanson mine, as well as half of his land. We opened up a new mine and built new coal chutes. The next year we had a flood and our tipples and coal chutes all went down the river. We found all the material a long ways down. We hauled it back and built it up again. I decided that I did not like coalmining and traded my share of the mine to Mr. Hanson for the rest of his land. We lived there until 1946 then sold out to Mr. Widmann from California. While we lived there we raised some cattle and farmed a little. In the winter I worked at the mine hoisting coal. In the later years we hoisted the coal by a big steamer.

We had a walking bridge across the river but in the spring it usually went out with the ice. I got the idea of building a cable bridge where the banks were higher and that worked out pretty well.

T. A. Haugseth Story

by Mrs. Ingeborg Haugseth

I came to cook at Chris Hansons coalmine in the spring of 1930 and stayed there for several years. The winters were busy, as he employed quite a few men. Besides, a lot of coalhaulers came in to buy their dinner. Jobs were not easy to come by in the winters and Mr. Hanson was an easy agreeable man to work for, so I stayed for nine years.

Most years the same fellows returned to the mine in the fall. For several years Mr. Watkins from Bittern Lake was the mine foreman. Some of the men who worked there were Mike Sydor, Lawrence Schandle, Ted Haugseth, John Hinkle and several others, whose names I have forgotten.

Nels Ingvaldson

Nels Ingvaldson was born in Lunar, Norway, coming to Minneapolis, Minnesota to further his education.

He received his Bachelor of Arts and Masters degree in Theology and had his four languages, English, German, Latin and Norwegian. He had only three months left to finish to become a pastor, but heard of the homestead land in Minot, North Dakota, and he went to try farming.

He went back to Norway, taking Hannah Bligen from Holland as his bride — she was born March 25, 1882. He brought her back to his homestead, where he farmed and they both taught school.

Nels was also a member of a male quartette that toured the United States.

In 1905 a son, Joseph Calmer was born, he was christened in Togus Church just outside of Minot. They then heard of the Canadian Prairies that was a land of lush and plenty, they landed at Amisk, in 1909. They settled on another homestead near Lougheed, by Peninsola Lake, where he farmed besides being layman and parochial school teacher. Neighbors helped his wife farm while he was away teaching.

He taught in the Donalda area in 1910-1911, and stayed with some friends, as it was too far to go back and forth. When he finished teaching, the kind people gave him a Jersey cow, and a crate of chickens, and he happily travelled home with his horse and buggy, his cow tied behind. He also taught at Meeting Creek.

On this homestead, another son was born in January, 1912, who still lives on the homestead there. Later, on January 16, 1919, a daughter, Mildred was born.

Mildred took her schooling at Lougheed and attended Church regularly with her father. In April of 1941, she was married to Tom Cloutson at Trinity Lutheran Church, after Tom came home from serving in World War II. It was the first military service to be held in their church.

Nels Ingvaldson passed away in November, 1940, at the age of 71.

Hannah Ingvaldson passed away May 15, 1965, at the age of 83.

Mildred and Tom Cloutson live in Lougheed, and do janitor work and mail delivery since they have quit farming. They have 3 children, Kenneth — farming, is married with 1 son, and lives at Hardisty, Jo-Anne — a secretary at Mt. Royal College, is married, has 2 children, and lives at Alliance, and Raymond — is married and works in the Oil Fields and they live in Hardisty.

Alvin Rude Family

Alvin was born in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1933. He moved with his family to Armena in 1940. His father was a minister so the family also lived in Lake Alma, Sask. and Edberg, Alberta.

Alice was born in Donalda in 1933. Her parents were Henry and Mina Johnson.

Alvin and Alice were married at Bethany Lutheran Church on July 2, 1954. We lived the first year at Edberg, then Camrose. Ken was born in 1955. In the fall of 1955 we went to Gunnar Mines, Sask. to work in the Uranium Mines. We were at Donalda the summer of 1957 at which time Rodney was born. Alvin was at Gunnar again for the winter. Then in the spring of 1958 we rented a farm from Ted Peterson, north of Meeting Creek. Three children were born while there, Curtis in 1959, Diane in 1961 and Dennis in 1962. In February of 1964 we moved to the Blomgren farm north of Donalda, which we bought. Carol was born in 1964.



Rude family picture — Rodney and Joy, son Sean, Diane, Curtis, Alvin and Alice, Dennis, Carol, Kenneth and Valerie.



Alvin and Alice Rude's wedding 1954. Selmer and Clara Rude, Mina Johnson, Allen Knudtson, Eunice Stolee.



Curtis, Rodney, Kenneth Dennis, Carol and Diane Rude.

The children have attended school at Meeting Creek and Edberg. Some have attended C.L.B.I. Camrose and L.C.B.I. Outlook, Sask. for high school or Bible School.

We attend Bethany Church and have enjoyed the Christian fellowship and friendship that this has given us.

Our family is increasing. Rodney married Joy Ashton in 1978 and their son Sean was born in 1979. Kenneth married Valerie Schlamb in 1979. Alvin and Alice celebrated their 25th Anniversary in 1979 also.

1979 finds Ken living in Saskatoon, Rodney and Curtis in Camrose. Diane is attending C.L.B.I. Camrose, and Dennis L.C.B.I. Outlook, Sask. for grade 12. Carol is taking grade 10 at Edberg. Alvin and Alice are busy with general farm work, including cattle, poultry and grain.

Gullik Saltvold Family

Gullik Saltvold was born to parents Joseph and Emma Saltvold at Pope County, Minnesota in 1903. He with his parents and sister Dorothy moved to Canada in 1911, settling first in the Rosebush district, and in 1918 moving to the Ferry Point district. He took most of his schooling here and attended the Ferry Point Lutheran Church, where he was confirmed.

In the 1920's he took a trip to Minneapolis to visit relatives. It was there where he met his wife-to-be.

Lillie Kinn was born and grew up on a farm at Waseca, Minnesota. She attended North Waseca Lutheran Church where she was baptized and confirmed. At age 17 she moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she attended school for two years, later working for a grain firm until her marriage.

Gullik and Lillie were married in 1934 at her parent's home in Minneapolis by an uncle of Gullik's, Rev. Michael Stolee.

They came to New Norway, Alberta where they lived on a farm for five years. In 1939 they moved to the Ferry Point district. Five sons were born to this union, two of which died in infancy.

Donald, married Letha Olson of Round Hill in 1962. They have four children, Deanna, Lois, Teresa and Donavon. They live just north of Bethany Church where they farm.

James, married Roberta Millard of Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1969. They have two boys, David and Mark. They live in Pinawa, Manitoba where James works as an engineer for Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.

Mike the youngest, is working the home farm, where his mother also resides.

Gullik passed away in 1973, just two months short of his seventieth birthday.

Saltvold Story

by Dave Saltvold

My father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Saltvold, and two children came from Minnesota in 1911. They worked and rented land in the Rosebush School district, where three more children were born. In 1918 they moved to the Ferry Point School district, buying the S.E. ¼-25-43-19-w4. I was born here in 1918, and my younger brother arrived in 1921. We were a family of nine, being the folks, their four sons and three daughters.

Our parents were a vital part of the community from 1918 to 1955 when they retired to Camrose. Mother passed away in December 1960, and Father in January, 1969. At present I am the only one of my generation living right in the district, on the original site my folks settled on. Their three daughters are: Mrs. Dorothy Lowrie of Calgary, Mrs. Agnes Wold of Camrose and Mrs. Norma Bjorge of Bawlf. Two older sons, Gullik and Edgar, have passed away. The youngest son, Fred, is in Minneapolis.

The Ferry Point School was right across the road on the southwest corner of S.W. 30-43-18 from about 1904 to 1949 when the big school district took over.

Pearl M. Stewart was the teacher when I started school at Easter time 1925. Other teachers we had were Miss Wilson, Miss Messer, Mrs. Clooney, Miss Inga Oberg (now Mrs. Hamilton of Forestburg). There are twenty-five to thirty-five kids in nine or ten grades and no fuss about split grades.

I remember in the thirties helping my father chase two steers to the railroad stockyards in Meeting Creek. They were three year old steers, hog fat from

the stubble fields. He got thirty-five dollars for the two of them. Also he hauled a cow by team in a wagon box to Rosalind. He had a choice of fifteen dollars for her, or one and a half cents per pound which he took and realized sixteen dollars and fifty cents for the cow.

If I remember correctly it was also in the thirties that two separate quarters near here were for sale for sixteen hundred dollars each, but for cash payment. No one had that kind of money. It was some years later they were sold and then on time payments of about five years with interest at three per cent.

Ferry Point Church, (Bethlehem), a quarter mile south, was in service from 1905-1967. Recently, Ferry Point Historical Society have started preserving the old church building as an historical site.

Our generation can appreciate our forefathers settling close to school and church. We have a heritage from them and from dedicated teachers, pastors, laymen — preparing and pointing the way ahead. For us it is to strive to leave the land and community in as good or better conditions than when we took over —

perhaps like our forefathers leave some footprints on the sands of time.

When we look back at history, we also need to look forward. I think I Peter 1:4 expresses this quite well. “To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.”

If one has to have lived on the same place for sixty years, to have farmed with horses, to have cleared land by hand, to have hauled grain by team to the elevator, to have pitted feeble strength against the elements, to have gone to a one-room country school, all this to be an old-timer, than I am an old timer.

In retrospect, the hard times become the good old days when we consider the neighborliness, the co-operating, the working and playing together of the small community. The school bell no longer calls a group together for discipline and learning, but some of that order and knowledge lives on. The Church bell no longer calls to worship and fellowship, but much of the faith of our fathers continues to influence events and live on in hearts from seeds planted there.

Glen Park School District

GLEN PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1841

HOMESTEADERS MAP

By Anne Marie Knudsen



Glen Park School

The Glen Park S.D. #1841 was formed and the school built around 1909. Glen Park School was located five miles east and one mile south of the town

of Meeting Creek, or two miles west of Bethany Church, the S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 1-43-19. It was situated at the southern end of a shady lane called "Glen Park road."



Glen Park School 1939-40. Audrey Bergum, Cordella Dennis, Ulla Lundell, Boys unidentified.

Glen Park was the usual one room school, having a cloak room, but no basement. The cloak room was divided and was separated from the class room by a half wall. Many times the students would be found perched up on this wall until told to get down by the teacher. The “big” boys would also spend time chinning themselves in the door ways of this wall. The wall was also handy to watch Christmas concerts from — you always had a good view.



Glen Park Pupils on Barn Roof: 1946. Back row: David Bergum, Lenard Sjostrom, Henry Sjostrom, Bernice Lundell. Front row: Keith Bergum, Anna Halseide, Fay Edenloff, Marie Edenloff.

The door faced east and the many windows faced the road. The large stove was in one corner of the school room. When the weather was particularly cold the students would be allowed to carry out their studies around the stove. This often resulted in having “burning faces and cold backs.” Over the years the school had the same double desks that lasted until the school was closed down.

Usually one of the pupils would be paid to care for the fires, carry out ashes and sweep. The washing facilities consisted of two basins on opposite sides of the room at the back. The older children took turns carrying water from Charlie Brandells well. The distance being only about one hundred yards, just across the road.

The dual purpose building serving as coal shed and horse barn, also served a good purpose when “Hide and Seek” was played. The boys also enjoyed climbing on this building and sliding off its roof.

In early years the students had to manufacture their own balls before playing baseball. This was done by sewing a piece of cloth around some cork and string. While playing “Ante I Over” these balls were often lost. Once in a while a ladder would be borrowed from a neighbor and the balls that collected in the eave troughs, would be brought down. Other games that were enjoyed by the children were, Prisoners Base; Steal Sticks and Pom-Pom Pull away.



Glen Park Pupils. Back row: Ben Dennis, Ella Martin, Pauline Christians, Dorothy Odegard, Budd Dennis. Second row: Margaret Brandell, Glen Hoy, Alton Dennis, Leonard Martin, Claude Dennis. Third row: Hugh Dennis, Audrey Bergum, Margaret Lien, Ulla Lundell, Graydon Dennis. In Front: Bernice Lundell, Cordella Dennis.

The Christmas Concerts are fondly remembered. The whole family would be bundled up and would climb into the sleigh. Sometimes the temperature would be 30° below zero with snow so deep the horses could hardly get through.

The first teacher a Miss Spooner, only stayed a short time. The second teacher, Miss Walker, had twenty one pupils in her class.

Other teachers that taught here over the years follow and are not in order as years go. In 1915 Edith Henry of Red Willow (Adair 1916), Miss Ringwall; Ella Munson; Miss Currie; Mr. Hodges; Jimmy Jones, who became a lawyer; W. C. Porter; Bonnie Beckman; Harvey Stuve; Miss Gertrude Gourley; Ingeborg Stolee; Miss Pickering; Medora Beckman; Ethyl Oberg; Clara Arneberg; Leslie Brown; Lottie Lee; Edna Tate; Ilene Rosdal; Mrs. Annie Bergum; Miss Gladys Erickson (1945-46) and Alton Dennis (1946-47).

One of the last formal transactions of Glen Park School was the sale of the piano. The piano had been bought with money raised from pie and box socials. The money from the sale of the piano was given to charity.

In 1960 the Glen Park School was moved to its present location, one hundred yards north of Meeting Creek School. It was remodeled and used as a teacherage for a number of years. At present it is being rented out as a residence. (Portions of this article were taken from the booklet "Trails and Trials" 1968-69).

School Memories by Evelyn (Johnson) Vikse

I don't remember what grade we were in at the time, but Budd Dennis and I were the only ones in that grade, so the teacher had us sit together in a double desk.

There was always ring worm making the rounds at school. Archie Beyerstein had one on his neck, and I had one on my arm, so I got teased about having my arm around his neck.

It was almost an every day occurrence to have a whirlwind come by the school. The boys would hurry to throw their caps into the middle of it, and have them carried high in the air. Sometimes they'd have to run half a mile to get their caps back.

When Valentine's day arrived, it would take us many evenings to make the cards for everyone at school. It was great fun and we got some pretty unique ones too. I remember one from Donna Reynolds that said, "Hurry, school's out". Those were the days when kids thought ahead.

The days of peanut butter sandwiches and lard

pails for lunch buckets, and crock water fountains are gone forever, but the memories are still there.

Unmarked Graves

by Palmer Hagen

There are many graves in the Donalda area that are not recorded. Two hundred Indians were buried in a mass grave on S.W. 33-43-18. These died from smallpox. Old-timers told me that Ferry Point was then known as Smallpox Crossing. In one of Reverend McDougall's journals he wrote: near the bend in the Battle, while riding from Pakan to Morley, I came across forty lodges of Indians, both Blackfoot and Cree dead in their lodges. All had died from smallpox.

There are several Blackfoot Indian graves east of Donalda. When a person died in a hunting party, his body was covered with rocks. Their belief was that the rocks held the deceased person's spirit down. He wouldn't be able to follow the party and spoil the hunt.

Eddie Hestness and I examined such a pile in our pasture, east of Donalda, but all we found was one elbow joint.

Near the mouth of Red Willow Creek, east of Donalda, five children are buried. They had lost their lives in a house fire. Bob Baird told me when he was a boy, his dad showed him the five wooden crosses in amongst the spruce trees. Carl Peterson told me the name of the family, but at the time of this writing, I cannot recall it.

On the N.E. quarter of 29-42-19 the twelve year old son of Carl Bjorkblad is buried, near the east fence line. He apparently died after eating chokecherries.

On the southwest quarter of 6-44-18 Camille David's first wife is buried. Ode Collins worked for the Davids at the time of her death and told me her grave had a small log shelter over it. Indian fashion.

John Beckman

by M. Niesz (Medora Beckman)

My father, John Beckman, came to Alberta in 1901 and homesteaded on one quarter and bought the half section of land which was the west half of 1-43-19-W4 and directly south of his homestead. He bought this land from the C.P.R. paying \$3 per acre. Bill Boetcher, my Uncle Martin Johnson and Dad came from South Dakota, where my Dad ranched near the Missouri River. They came seeking a new area to raise cattle. Bill Boetcher took two quarters just east of our C.P.R. land, but did not stay to develop it. For several years the Boetcher place was

the home of Anton and Emma Olson, but is presently owned by Ben and Stanley Dennis.

My Dad and friends had come by train to Wetaskiwin and from this centre they travelled the surrounding area seeking the type of land best suited to their needs. This being in the cycle of the wet seasons, every slough, creek and river was filled to capacity, with swarms of mosquitos overhead. Over muddy trails, fording the Battle River and other creeks he hauled the lumber for our house from Wetaskiwin, a distance of about sixty miles. This house was built by Nels Westlund, who had arrived with his family in 1901 from North Dakota, and settled just north of our homestead. The only other near neighbor was Jonas Anderson who also arrived in 1901 with a grown family consisting of Johanna Schultz, Inga (Mrs. Ed Korstad), Carl, Andrew and Hank Anderson. This place was bought by W. Plahn about 1914.

Mother came in 1902 with her two children, Alta aged three and Bonnie one year old. They brought with them the furniture and household goods which were hauled to their new home taking several days to make the trip. It is probably very difficult for the present day people to visualize the challenges the early pioneers had to meet in their daily life. With the nearest store sixty miles away, food, clothing and other necessities had to be planned months in advance. However, more settlers came in 1903, George Smith opened a store on the east bank of the Battle River, which was reached by a ferry. About the same time Mr. Ellefson opened a small store about one mile west of our home. Life was getting easier. Then in 1910 the C.N.R. from Camrose to Stettler was surveyed, running through the valley of the Meeting Creek, and soon the village of Meeting Creek sprung up. From now on the settlers were within easy driving distance to shop and sell their products. Preceding this period, one must not forget the early peddlers that drove through the countryside, opening mysterious cases, containing spices and other household needs. There were two companies, the Watkins and Rawleighs whose salesmen outlasted the independent peddler — both selling spices, salves, liniments etc.

The area my father chose was excellent for cattle and farming. There were open areas producing abundant grass and vetch, excellent food for cattle, and groves of trees, aspen, willow and diamond willow — supplying fuel, fence posts and logs for buildings.

More settlers came in, taking homesteads and buying cheap land. There were the Odegard family, Ole, Gus and Andrew Lundell, the Jerstad and Auckland family east of us, also the Sam Hanson and

Eickland family that stayed a few years, then returned to the States. All of these settlers came from parts of the United States. With increased number of settlers the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the Ferry Point was built around 1905 and about 1910 the Bethany Lutheran Church was constructed. The Glen Park S.D. #1841 was formed and the school built around 1909. The first teacher, a Miss Spooner, stayed a short time. The second teacher, Miss Walker, had twenty-one pupils according to a picture taken at the time and I note that they had the same double desks that lasted until the school was dismantled. On this picture of Miss Walker's class, the pupils were Betsy, Sina, Alma and Ida Jerstad; Alta and Bonnie Beckman; Ida, Sophie and Benny Auckland; Thea, Amanda, Peter and Julius Odegard; Ellen, Emma and Jenny Westlund; Oscar, Henry and Mary Eickland; Helen Anderson and the oldest daughter of Sam Hanson.

I recall one incident of this time. Miss Walker, who was boarding at our house, took me (I was about three or four years old) and went through a gate made of poles just north-east of our house and on to open land where we were picking berries. Dad's cattle were ranging on this open land. We came around a grove of trees and there, grazing, were some of these cattle. Not being use to seeing people walking, they started for us. Miss Walker picked me up under her arm and ran. When we got to the pole gate she tossed me over, but how she got over that gate with her long skirt, before the cattle got there, remains a mystery.

Although life was difficult with none of the modern facilities, people were very friendly, helping each other in busy times, visiting and holding many house parties where the older ones played cards and the young ones danced or played games. After the towns of Meeting Creek and Donalds developed there were picnics, where all gathered to hear local bands, watch baseball games or just visit. During those early years one never thought of locking the doors even though gone for several days. All those passing by and in need of a place to sleep and eat were made welcome — true western hospitality.

One humorous incident that I was told took place when my uncle Martin Johnson came for a few days visit. One day about noon my Uncle discovered his wallet, with fifty dollars in, was missing. Fifty dollars at that time was a great deal of money. The whole family turned out to retrace the steps where Dad and Uncle had been that morning. At that time there was a fence between the barn and windmill and extending west which formed a pasture for Mother's favorite cow, Spot. The search extended all afternoon with no results. Near evening a discussion was held and it

was decided that Spot must have eaten the wallet. Since Spot, the cow, was worth only a few dollars they decided to kill the cow. At this critical point, Alta was crawling under the fence between the windmill and barn, when lo and behold, there was Uncle Martin's wallet. Spot was saved.

I have always been deeply grateful that I was born and had the privilege of spending my childhood in an underdeveloped area.

I recall early memories of my Dad and Alta rounding up those wild cattle in the early fall and bringing them in, separating the calves into a corral to wean them, so there would be nights listening to calves and cows bawling. I was sternly warned not to go into the pasture where the cattle were kept, and felt very brave when Dad would let me ride on a load of hay, to be pitched out for feed. In the spring came branding time with the help of the Lundell brothers, the B brand would be placed on all calves born the previous year. This ritual ended shortly after World War 1, as most of the land was now taken, thus limiting open cattle range.

I recall how I would make many pilgrimages, in the late spring, to a large grove of trees along our west fence, south-west of our house, and the great joy of finding the early flowers of a patch of yellow lady-slippers with a patch of shooting-stars nodding their heads near by. Later on in the summer large bouquets of red tiger lilies could be picked in the pasture and brought home.

Wild berries could be found everywhere. Mother often gave me a small pail and with that I'd go into our pasture and pick enough wild strawberries for desert for supper. Wild strawberries and rich thick cream! What could be more aptly called ambrosia? Later on in the summer there was always the berry picking expedition, where mother having prepared fried chicken, potato salad and other goodies, we'd pile into the buggy; loaded down with pails and a square tub, and be off for the Battle River Hills. Luscious, big saskatoons would be stripped off the overloaded bushes, enough to fill the tub and pails of wild berries. Does anyone remember eating wild berry pie? Words fail to describe it. Of course, after that trip we kids were kept busy cleaning berries, while mother canned our winter supply.

Then too, there are the memories of spring evenings when we would be serenaded by nature's orchestra-croaking frogs, quacking ducks, the howl of a coyote with its answering call and the lone hoot of an owl. Of course, that was sometimes intermingled with the hum of thousands of mosquitos overhead, and the whiff of smoke from a bon-fire nearby to keep the mosquitos from the horses.

With the first streak of dawn we would be awakened by a melodious choir of birds, singing their joy of a happy home and territory.

One of my favorite haunts was the virgin land owned by Boetcher, now the home of Ben Dennis. There were numerous sloughs and groves of trees where I wandered looking for birds nests, watched ducks feed and muskrats building their houses. Sometimes I would come across a partridge whose dragging wing seemed to be broken. I'd try as hard as I could to catch it, but somehow it would always manage to stay four or five feet in front of me, until it had led me some distance, when suddenly it would whir away leaving me very puzzled. It was some time before I realized this wily bird was leading me from its nest of babies. Prairie chickens (sharp-tailed grouse) too, were very plentiful, especially in the fall around straw stacks.

Gone are most of the patches of wild flowers, wild berries, the groves of trees with fewer birds — destroyed mainly by the plow and man's eagerness to raise more grain. Gone too, are these early pioneers. My father passed away in 1933, and my mother, in 1979 at the age of 105 years. Let us never forget that it was these early pioneers that laid the foundation for building Alberta what it is to day.

Theodore Carlson Family

by Clifford Carlson

Theodore August Carlson was born November 14, 1887 at Ulfalsa, Sweden. At the age of nineteen years he immigrated to Lancaster, Minnesota. Here he took what work he could, including painting, which he later mastered very well.



Back row — Raymond, Clifford, Florian Carlson. Front row — Theodore, Cecelia, Elna.

Elna Marie Anderson was born September 24, 1887 at Jamtland, Sweden. She came with her parents to Grasston, Minnesota in 1888. Here she attended school.

Later she came to Lancaster, where she found employment and also a husband, Theodore August Carlson. They were married in 1911. They took up farming and Theodore also continued to do painting.

Their first child Cecilia was born September 13, 1911. A son Clifford was born February 10, 1914. Floreen and his twin sister Florence were born November 8, 1916.

Sorrow came to the Carlson home when Florence met with an accident, and passed away a couple days later, at the age of about 2 years.

January 2, 1920 was the arrival of their third son Raymond.

Much was heard about Alberta and its fertile land. This interested the Carlson family. December 13, 1928 they landed in Camrose with a train car of machinery and furniture. They lived in the Camrose north area for about five years.

During this time their daughter Cecilia married Elmer Olson and took up farming. They have one daughter and four sons. They are all married and have a family.

In the spring of 1933, Theodore, Elna and their three sons moved to the Sam Ackland farm just north of Bethany Lutheran Church.

Clifford and Floreen helped with the farm operations. Raymond attended Glen Park school, also Meeting Creek and Camrose Lutheran College.

They farmed with horses and when threshing time came, Clifford, Floreen together with other neighbors hauled bundles for Abel and Amos Blomgren's threshing machine. A bunk car followed the rig providing sleeping quarters for the men.

Their herd of holsteins were milked by hand. The cream separator was also turned by hand. The cream was hauled to the creamery at Donalda. The cream trucker was Percy Jones. Some cream was churned to butter and was exchanged for groceries at Petersons store at Meeting Creek.

They attended the Swedish Lutheran Church at Meeting Creek.

They enjoyed the company of their neighbors such as Carl and Elna Lundell, Robert and Anna Lundell, Blomgrens, Nels Sjostroms, Arthur Liens, Knute Collin and many others.

In the spring of 1938 the Carlsons rented the Sven Johnson farm north of Camrose. Their machinery was hauled on sleighs and cattle herded along the way by horse back riders.

A few years later they purchased this farm.

In 1948 Clifford and Alma Knudson of Ryley were married. Theodore and Elna retired to their home in Camrose. Clifford and Alma have one daughter who is married and has two children.

Floreen who remained single continues to farm with Clifford.

Raymond who was employed by the Beaver Lumber Co. at Camrose took Helen Nesvold as his wife in 1943. They were blessed with a daughter and a son. He was transferred to the Lumber Co. in Meeting Creek but later back to Camrose again. Raymond passed away as a young man at the age of thirty-two years. Both his children are married and have families of their own.

Theodore Carlson passed away in September 1954 and his wife Elna in May 1960.

The Edenloffs

Nels Olef Edenloff and Inga Marie Edenloff, moving from Minnesota via Virginia and southern Alberta, settled in the Donalda area in 1918. They brought with them a family of two sons and seven daughters; Minnie, Walter, Mildred, Clara, Ruth, Elsie, Harold, Florence and Hatty. 1919 saw the arrival of another daughter, Gladys, born in Donalda.



The eight Edenloff Sisters: Gladys, Hatty, Ruth, Minnie, Mildred, Florence, Cara, Elsie.

Minnie soon moved to Edmonton and married Mac McLean. They had one daughter and one son, Maxine Ainsley and James. Minnie is currently living in the Good Samaritan Auxiliary Hospital.

Walter married Leone Ruggles and remained in the area. They had four daughters and two sons. Marie Kirchmeir now lives in Blind River, Ontario with her husband Wolfe and their three children. Fay Carlson is living in Camrose with her husband Sture and their son. Peter lives in Calgary with his wife Barbara Sand and their three sons. Helen died at the age of 13 of scarlet fever complications. Patricia is

living in Camrose. She has one son and one daughter. Ivan lives in Edmonton with his wife, Joan and their son. Leone passed away in 1971. Walter has since married Thea Finnestad and now resides in Camrose.

Mildred moved to Edmonton and married William Patton. They had one son. William has passed away and Mildred is still residing in Edmonton.

Clara moved to Toronto and married Jim Kelly. Jim passed away and Clara married Stan Stephens in 1959. They are currently residing in Victoria, British Columbia.

Ruth moved to Toronto and married Norman Cherry. They have one son and one daughter, Raymond and Lynn.



Walter and Leone Edenloff on their twenty-fifth anniversary, 1961.

Elsie also moved to Toronto and married Jim Kyle. Jim passed away recently and Elsie is currently living in Barrie, Ontario.

Harold farmed in the Donalda area until his death in 1976.

Florence moved to Edmonton and worked for Woodwards until her retirement. She is living in south Edmonton.

Hatty married John Vikse and lived in Camrose. They had 5 daughters and one son; Virginia, Gloria, Jackie, Hazel, Donna and Loretta. John passed away. Hatty remarried Martin Hendrekson and they are living in Camrose.

Gladys married Maynard Cole. They have four children, Lorna, Daniel, Roger and Ralph. The Coles reside in Edmonton.

The Eikeland Family

Thor Martin Eikeland was born in 1876. He emigrated to the United States in 1892 at the age of sixteen. He lived in Montana where he worked as a sheepherder, and in South Dakota where he farmed for a few years. After moving to Canada he met and married Martha Johnson in 1904. They moved to the homestead six miles north of Donalda. Here they had



Thor and Martha Eikeland, Peter, Oliver and Helen.

a log cabin. Martha had moved from South Dakota in 1902 with her family, the Peter Johnsons.

Thor and Martha had seven children. Six were born in this area. Oliver in 1905, Peter in 1906, Anna 1907, Helen 1908, Ernest 1910, and Victor in 1912.

Oliver remembers his first year of parochial school at Norbo where everything was taught in Norwegian. The next year and thereafter, they taught only English. Thor was a charter member of Bethany Lutheran Church and Martha a charter member of the Ladies Aid.

Some of our nearest neighbors were Sam Hanson, Nils Eikeland, Peter Johnson and Jonas Johnson.

Dad used horses on wagons and sleighs for travel. I remember him hauling to the Meeting Creek elevator with a triple wagon box. He got supplies from Ferry Point in the early days. One time he said it was so cold on the trip coming home he almost froze to death as it was 70° below zero. The horses ran all the way home and he ran behind, hanging onto the sled.

We were at a celebration at Henry Johnson's place when the storm hit which blew the church over. I remember the fire also.



Eikeland family, Ernest, Helen, Oliver, Katie, Victor, Martha, Thor, Floyd and Peter. In front — Jim, Victor Jr. and Marion.

Anna is deceased and buried in the Bethany Cemetery.

Thor and family moved to Florida in 1914. Floyd was born in 1916. Thor and Martha, Peter and Ernest are deceased.

Oliver and his wife Katie live in Lutz, Florida. They have recently been back to Donalds to visit their old home and renew old friendships. Victor and family live in Tampa, Florida. Floyd and family are in Zephyrhills, Florida and Helen Eikeland Smith lives in Arizona.

Thor's brother Nils Eikeland and family also lived in this area.

In 1917 they sold their farm to N. Edenloff and moved to Deerfield, Wisconsin.

Percy Dennis Family

Percy Dennis came to Meeting Creek in 1920. He made his home with his brother Stanley until he got married. Mabel MacKendrick came out from Prince Edward Island in 1924 and they were married in Edmonton. Percy built a house on his quarter of land north of the Stanley Dennis building site. He eventually moved it farther north; closer to the road. He then built the barn and other smaller buildings which still remain. They had three children, Alton, Claude and Cordella. They are all married.

Alton and Lydia live in Penticton and have a son and a daughter. Alton teaches school.

Claude and Martha Sue live in Three Hills and have three sons and a daughter. Claude spent two terms in Swaziland, Africa as a missionary.

Cordella married Thorsten Johnson and with her husband and two children lives in Penticton.



Blanche and Mabel Dennis standing in front of Percy's 1926 or 27 Star car.

In 1961 Percy and Mabel sold their farm and moved to Camrose where Percy built several houses. He died in 1968 at the age of 72 years. Mabel recently sold her home in Camrose and moved to Penticton, B.C.

Stanley Dennis Family Memoirs

Stanley and Percy Dennis came to Alberta in 1919 from Prince Edward Island to look the situation over and find a job. They worked until late fall when Stanley decided to go back to Prince Edward Island where his fiancée was waiting.

Stanley Dennis was married to Blanche MacKendrick on February 19, 1920 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. They came to Edmonton and lived there for several months before coming to Meeting Creek. They bought the S.E. 1/4 of section 1 from Mr. Matthews. There was a house, barn and one granary on the place when they arrived. The land was mostly



Ben Dennis Family 1977. Back row — Lois, Ben, Gail, Owen. Second row — Douglas, Doris, Brian. Seated in front — Linda, Tracy, Ruth.

bush — about fifteen acres were broke. Their farming operation started with four horses and four or five cows. Percy Dennis bought N.E. ¼ of section 1. The men worked together cutting brush in the winter and breaking land with horses in the summer. They farmed with horses until 1938 when they bought a tractor.

The Dennis' had a government owned telephone in their home when they came but they and most of their neighbors had to let the telephone go because they couldn't afford the rent of \$1.50 a month. Around the year 1939 farmers met in Edberg and formed a company. They bought out the line and once again had the telephones installed.

A neighbor, Bill Plahn owned a steam engine and threshing machine. He did the threshing for the Dennis' and their neighbors for the first few years.

In 1926 six neighbors bought a McCormick 1530 tractor for \$1,200.00 and a 28" separator for \$1,500. Those owning shares were Carl and Robert Lundell, Fred Beyerstein, Rotto brothers, Pete Odegard, John Beckman and Stanley and Percy Dennis. This took care of harvesting operations, running up to forty days some falls until they split up in 1940 with the advent of the combine.

Stanley bought his first car in 1928. It was a 1925 Star car which cost him \$300.00.

While the men were busy outdoors, Blanche was busy raising a young family. All her seven children were born at home. The doctor was summoned from Donalds for the birth of Vernon but he was so drunk that Mrs. Clara Oberg ably performed the necessary duties. She was present for the births of the first six children. Mrs. Oberg was a trained midwife from Sweden and as Mrs. Dennis says "she was better than any doctor". She would stay in the home for three days until danger of complications was over.

Mrs. Mickelson, R.N. and Mrs. Charlie Brandell were present for the birth of Joyce as Mrs. Oberg had died.

Blanche's training as a dressmaker came in handy as she sewed most of her children's clothing. She sewed undergarments from flour sacks as well as small coats from adult's coats. She washed clothes by hand.

Then one day in 1928 a salesman came to her door. (They had door to door salesmen then too). He was selling washing machines. He gave a demonstration out in the yard by washing a pair of Stanley's underwear. Two little boys Budd and Ben could barely see over the edge of the tub. The salesman scared the boys by telling their mother she could put them in when she was through with the clothes. Anyway he sold the washing machine. They found it

hard to make the payment the next year because of the poor crops.

Looking back over the years Stanley recalls the biggest crop he ever harvested was in the year 1923. Marquis wheat yielded sixty bushels per acre. The poorest crop — 1929 with ten bushels per acre on summer fallow and two bushels per acre on stubble. In 1932 wheat sold for twenty cents a bushel and oats for eighteen cents. It cost twelve cents a bushel to thresh it so there wasn't much left for the farmer.

So that farmers could have fresh beef in the summer a beef ring was formed. A beef a week was butchered in Donalds and divided among each of the members. During the season each member contributed a critter.



Budd, Vernon and Frances Dennis.

1950 saw the power installed on the farms in the area.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis are still living on the farm they came to nearly sixty years ago. Their son Ben lives on N.E. ¼ of section 1. They bought this land from Uncle Percy Dennis in 1961. Ben married Doris Peterson in 1952. They have eight children. Gail teaches in the High School at Bashaw. Linda married Ric Cole from New Norway and lives in London, Ontario where her husband is attending University. Douglas and Bryan are at home. Lois married Bob Sinnamon in 1979 and lives on a farm at Strome. Owen, Ruth and Tracey are still in school.

After serving in World War II their oldest son Vernon attended University of Alberta and became a medical doctor. He spent two terms as a missionary in the Congo and now makes his home in Chicago. He and his wife have four children.

Budd lives on a farm near Peace River. He owns B and C Jewelry but his current interest is raising

Arabian horses. He and his wife Carmen have seven daughters and one son.

Graydon and Margaret also live on a farm near Peace River. He teaches Industrial Arts at Peace River. They have three daughters and one son.

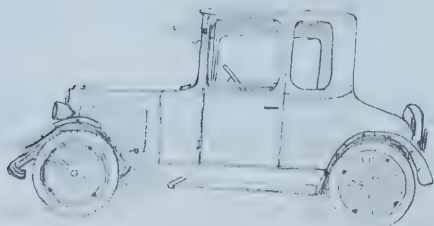
Hugh lives in Red Deer where he teaches school. He and his wife Lorraine have four sons.

Joyce lives in Regina. Her husband Milton Fair works for the Wheat Pool. They have a son and a daughter.

Halseide — Saltveit

Hans Celcius Halseide and Erling Salveit came to Canada from Haugesund, Norway in 1925 or 1926. In coming to the Norbo district they were hired by Conrad Vikse. Erling worked at different jobs in the area. Hans also worked at the Alfred Vikse, Knute Collin and Alfred Berg farms. Together Hans and Erling owned an old Model T.

I am told Erling enjoyed playing his accordion. He would play at picnics, social gatherings or wherever there was anyone to listen to his music. In 1930-31 Erling returned to Norway, leaving the Model T with Hans.



The Hans Halseide "Model T".

In 1935 Hans Halseide married Beda Johnson who was working for Alfred Vikse at the time. They went to live on the Berg homestead in the Ibsen district. They lived here only one year, before moving to the old Sorenson homestead which Hans rented in the Glen Park area. Hans still had the old Model T.

Hans started farming with only four horses, a cow and calf.

Come fall during harvest Hans would follow the threshing crew from farm to farm in turn to take off the crops. In dry years there were always fears of grass and bush fires.

Four children were born to Beda and Hans Halseide, a son, Stanley, who passed away at infancy and three daughters, Anna, Helen and Edna.

It was about this time that Hans sold the Model T.

Anna took her first two years of school at Glen Park, a three mile walk across country. Anna remembers being so afraid of coyotes that she would hide behind stooks or a tree, which ever was handiest, until the coyote would pass. At this time, 1945-1947 Gladys Erickson and Alton Dennis were the teachers.

Anna took grades three through eight at the Ibsen school, while Helen received her first six years of schooling there also. Teachers over this period of



Beda and Hans Halseide, 1956.

time were Mrs. Anne Heatley, Miss Doreen Anderson, Mrs. Doris Pearson, Mrs. Eleanor Cook, and Miss L. M. Tschirren.

After taking grade one in Ibsen, the school closed down, and Edna joined her sisters on the bus to school in Donalda. The girls attended Sunday School and Luther League at the Bethany Lutheran Church.

In 1949 or '50 Hans bought the Johnny Hanson quarter east of the Sorenson place, which by this time he owned. Hans built a new house on this quarter with the help of Ernest Johnson.

Horses were still our mode of transportation at this time. In 1952 Hans purchased his second car, a Chevrolet.

In 1955 Anna left home to work in Stettler, at Thirks 5¢ to \$1.00 store.

In the spring of 1958 Hans passed away. Beda, Helen and Edna continued to live on the farm.

In August of 1958 Anna married Harry Collin of the Norbo district. (The Harry Collin story can be found in the Norbo section).

Second daughter, Helen Bernice left home in 1958 to work in Stettler. She married Arthur Holt of Erskine in 1962. After four years of marriage, they spent the next ten years travelling and working overseas in oil fields. Art has now started his own company, Hel-Star Blowout services in Grand Prairie.



Erling Saltveit and Hans Halseide outside the log cabin they built on the Conrad Vikse farm.

They have three children: a daughter Vickie 16, and two sons, Darrel 15 and Duane 9.

Youngest daughter Edna Elaine attended Camrose Lutheran College and Red Deer Lindsay Thurber Composite High School completing grade twelve. She then was employed at the Alberta School Hospital in Red Deer for six years. She received her certificate in Mental Deficiency Nursing after three years of training. Edna is presently employed at the Eric Cormack Centre in Edmonton in the same field of work. Edna married Dennis Radtke, an electrician of Hay Lakes, in 1975, and are presently residing there. Edna and Dennis have one son, Jay, born September 28, 1979.

Beda continued to run the farm with the help of hired men until 1973, when she sold the farm to Lane Damberger and moved to Camrose, where she still resides.

Abraham Jerstad Family

Abraham Jerstad was born at Viksdalen, Sanfjord, Norway, October 5, 1856. He immigrated to



A Jerstad family — Betsy, Sina, George Quesseth, Alma, Oscar, Grandpa Jerstad, Ida, Grandma Jerstad, Clara.

U.S.A. in 1881 and worked in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and later settled in South Dakota.

Mrs. Marianna Olson Jerstad came later to South Dakota and they were married in 1894. They resided on a farm in Campbell County near Glenhem. Here Sina, Betsy, Alma and Ida were born.

When the dry years came to South Dakota they decided to move to Canada. They intended to come in 1902, but his brother Jens Jerstad, who was with them, broke his leg so the move was delayed until 1903. The girls at that time were 8, 7, 5 and 2 years respectively.

Mr. Jerstad had filed on the land before the family arrived. The location was N.W. ¼-32-42-18-W4, just south across the road from Bethany Church. The nearest railroad town was Wetaskiwin. From here the horses and cattle were herded ahead of the wagons in which the supplies were loaded and the family rode. It took three days to arrive at their destination. The first day they went as far as Hustads (near Edberg), and the second night was spent at Johnny Hansons, and the third evening they came to Nels Eikelands, where they stayed three weeks, while the men dug a well, and built corrals, and so on. While a one room house was built they lived in a tent, which was shared in a corner by a broody hen with a clutch of eggs. A sod chicken coop was also made.

Needless to say at that time the trails were full of ruts, and creeks had to be forded. Sloughs were bypassed. They were constantly plagued by mosquitoes.

Some close neighbors who had arrived a year or two before were Nels Eikelands, Ole Eikelands, Sam Akland, Jacob Vikses, Tom Vikses, J. M. Stolees, Peter Johnsons, Thor Eikelands and Stener Hildes. These were all interested in organizing a Lutheran Congregation. This they did in 1904. Jerstad and family were charter members. Rev. C. M. Nodtvedt was the first pastor. Meetings and Sunday School were held in the homes and later in Norbo School. The Ladies Aid was organized in 1903 of which Mrs. Jerstad was a member.

In 1905, a new member arrived in the household of the Jerstads. A son Oscar, was born. Another daughter, Clara, was born in 1908.

The Norbo school was the first to be built in the district. Later Glen Park became their home school.

Social activities centred around the church. In 1907 the "Sösken Baandet" Young Peoples' Society, the name of which later was changed to "Onward Young Peoples Society" was organized. There was also a girls' society, "the Lyngblomsten", for the single girl. The big event of every summer was the picnic to which people came from far and near. There

were always competitive races and games and lots of good food and home made ice cream and lemonade.

During the first couple of years supplies had to be brought from Wetaskiwin. After the railroad came to Bawlf, grain was hauled there and supplies bought. Groceries were later freighted to small country stores at Ferry Point, Ellefson and Norbo Stores.

To build the second part of their house, the lumber was supplied by a Spruce Coulee Mill. They then had room for parochial school, which was taught by Mr. Olufson. There were also quilting bees, suppers, and Christmas programs. During one program the lights of a prairie fire were seen in the west window. The men quickly left to fight the fire, and the women and children remained to finish the program.

The church was built in 1913, just a quarter of a mile from home. On June 17, 1914, a cyclone destroyed the church. Abraham was away looking for a milk cow north on section 9, but Jens had been working in the field. Oscar saw the storm coming, and ran most of the way home from school, and made it just in time. The house became dark. The storm was on. After the storm, Jens went out to look around, but soon came in looking very white. When asked what was the matter, he said, "The church is gone." By 1915 the church was rebuilt. Sina and George Queseth were the only ones to be married in that first church.

Since Jerstads lived closest to the church, Mrs. Jerstad always hurried to make dinner for the pastors who had to drive to Spruce Coulee for another service. This went on for many years. Even if they had company for dinner, no one was allowed to stay home to make the meal. And this in spite of having wood stoves! Times have changed! Come to think of it, Jerstads supplied the organists for the congregation. They were fortunate to have an organ, and Pastor Klyve helped Betsy with her first music.

One time Aklands, Eikelands and Jerstads got lost going home from a Christmas program at Solmonsons. There was no snow and no moonlight. Jerstad had a lantern on the front of the buggy. They finally stopped and Akland discovered he was home. They had driven past Jerstads. Perhaps his horses had taken the lead.

During one summer church convention when people from distances like Bawlf, Holden, Bardo and Camrose drove with horses, it started to rain very heavily. Since Jerstads were the closest to the church, many of the people flocked to their place. That evening the women slept three in a bed, and the men retired in the hay loft. Mrs. Olufson and Mrs. Jerstad slept near the kitchen stove, and three of the girls made their bed in the granary. Altogether there were about thirty people over night.

Needless to say, much hard work went into building up the farm and raising the family. But there were also happy times. The children grew up, went out to work, married and moved to other places. Abraham and Marianna lived on the farm until 1936, when they had an auction sale. They spent the following winter in Vancouver. They then returned to Alberta and rented a room in Wetaskiwin.

In 1944, they came back to the farm for a few days to celebrate their fiftieth anniversary. All the children were present and many of the grandchildren and neighbors.

Their last years were spent with Alma in Wetaskiwin in the Eventide home. In 1950, Abraham fell and hurt his hip. A few days later he suffered a stroke and passed away. November 3, at the age of 94. For the last seven months Marianna had suffered from cancer, and passed away November 7, at the age of 83. A double funeral was held in Bethany Church on November 8, 1950. They had overcome difficulties together, and shared their joys together, and left their earthly abode together to be with their Maker and Lord.

The farm was sold to Gordon Knudtson. The old home has been replaced by a nice modern house, and the place nicely landscaped with trees and flowers.

Sina — was married to George Queseth in 1913 by Rev. Klyve. They lived in Donalda where George was in the hardware business with his brother Olaf. He was also salesman for machinery and Ford cars. Here three children Alfred, Iola and Cecil, were born. In 1918, they sold the store to Ole Anderson. In 1920, they left Canada and lived a few months in Portland, Oregon, and then moved to Silverton. Here Gladys and Duane were born. Duane passed away from pneumonia when only one year old. George worked at the Eastman Brothers' Sheet Metal plant



Jerstad home and family 1909-1910 — Mr. and Mrs. Jerstad, Sina, Betsy, Alma, Ida, Oscar. Clara in carriage.

until he was transferred to Salem, Oregon in 1926. Here they resided until they passed away: George, March 5, 1975 at the age of 89, and Sina the same year on August 6, at the age of 80 years. Alfred was killed in action December 7, 1941 in Manila. Cecil is a lawyer in Salem, Oregon. Iola (Yeasley) lives in Portland, and Gladys (Kanz) widowed, resides in Tacoma, Washington.

Betsy — was married to August Vikse in 1916 by Prof. Mike Stolee. They made their home in Donalda where August and his brother Mike had the general store. They had four children: Aleta, Mrs. Sherriff of Edmonton; Lester of Donalda; Arnold, who died as a baby; and Gordon who also resided in Edmonton. After being in the store business for 43 years, August and Betsy moved to Camrose. Here they celebrated their 50th. anniversary in 1966. Later they moved to Kelowna, where Betsy still resides. August passed away in 1972.

Alma — married Rev. Braa of Bawlf in 1927. In 1928 they moved to Port Arthur, (Thunder Bay) and later to Claresholm. They had two children, Allen and Adella. In 1939 they moved to Wetaskiwin and opened a private Eventide Home. For ten years Allen worked for the oil company and in 1954 left for Venezuela, Chili, Iran and Lybia. He is married, and lives in Calgary, where he is in the real estate business. Adella, Mrs. W. Rosland, lives in Camrose. After a long illness Rev. Braa passed away in 1947. Alma continued at her Eventide Home and later became matron of the Provincial Home. This year, 1979, she moved to Camrose to be near her daughter.

Ida — met her husband, Gulbran Kolkind, while working in Bawlf. They were married in 1929 and went into the restaurant business. From there they moved to Yellowknife, N.W.T., and sometime later to Whitehorse, Y.T., where they resided until they retired to Salmon Arm, B.C. They had two children, Dr. Kenneth Kolkind of Salmon Arm, and Gail who became a teacher and married Don Marks of Leduc. Ida's husband passed away August 16, 1978.

Oscar — married a neighbor girl, Alma Olson, daughter of Oscar Olson of Ferry Point. This was in 1931. For a time they resided on the farm, but later moved to Edmonton where Oscar was a carpenter. After much illness Alma passed away in 1961. They had one daughter, Berniece, who lives in Edmonton and works for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. In 1967, Oscar married Ingeborg (Stolee) Johnson and they now make their home on the farm near Hythe, Alberta.

Clara — became a teacher and taught in Norbo, Rosebush and Ibsen. From January 1936 to June 1940 she taught at Royal Banner near Hythe. She

then married Albert Nepstad and lived on a farm near Valhalla Centre. After twenty years, Albert passed away and Clara went back to teach for twelve years. She has three children, Marlene, who for the past nine years had taught music at Camrose Lutheran College; Elaine, who has worked in Toronto since 1967; and Peter, who lives on the farm with her.

Jens Jerstad

Jens came to Alberta with his brother Abraham in 1903. He homesteaded two miles S.W. of Abraham on the bank of the Meeting Creek Valley. He also bought the adjoining quarter of land from Ole Eikeland.

He was a charter member of the Bethany Congregation, and sang bass in the Normanna Male Choir. He never married. He raised fine big cattle, and milked one cow for his own use.

One morning in haying time while milking the cow, the cow stepped on his leg and broke it. He crawled to the house, and here Abraham and Oscar found him. They took him home with them, and Dr. Wall came out and set the leg.

Another time while riding near Vikses, the horse stumbled and fell on him and broke the same leg. This was the third break on that leg. This time Rosenberg Vikse brought him to Abraham's place to recuperate.

Some years later Jens sold his home on the "Coulee Rim" to Elvenous Sorensen and bought the quarter joining his brother on the east. He also acquired a quarter one mile south. In the early 30's he sold the farm to his nephew Arthur Lien, but continued to live there in his own house.

In 1941, he had a stroke and passed away. He was buried in the Bethany Cemetery.

Jonas Olai Johnson

Jonas Johnson was born in Story City, Iowa in 1880. When two years of age he moved with his folks to Brown County, South Dakota. They had land on the Jim River, three miles south of Columbia, and north of Bath. At the age of nine they moved west into Walworth County, four miles east of the Missouri River. The closest town was Bowdle, twenty-five miles to the east. In 1889 they started school in a log cabin a mile away. Around 1890, they had an Indian scare — the time Sitting Bull was their chief. They heard the Indians were on the warpath. The family drove to a neighbor's, five or six miles away, but the Indians did not show up. Around the year 1895, they moved to a 160 acre farm three and a half miles west of Selby, South Dakota.

Jonas came to Canada on January 10th, 1907 and landed in Bawlf, Alberta. The temperature was sixty-

two below zero. They couldn't keep the coaches warm on the train. There were seven locomotives stalled between Wetaskiwin and Hardisty. He purchased the east half section 31-42-18-W4 from Mr. Smith in 1907. He paid Mr. Smith \$2,500.00 for his share and still owed the C.P.R. for their share. On March 2nd he went back to Selby, South Dakota to get his machinery, well drilling outfit, and his four horses. It cost one hundred dollars to rent two box cars. Lars, his brother, went with him.

While he was away, his dad, Peter, put in twelve acres of oats for him. He wasn't able to get on the land till the 8th of May. Snow came and flattened the crop in the fall. He had to put pick up teeth on the binder to pick up the grain as he had also seeded some wheat after he returned.

The year 1908 was a bit better, but then the crop was flattened by hail. The years 1907 and 1908, he spent quite a bit of time drilling wells around the country.

In 1909, the crop was better. That year, Lars, Henry and Helmar went into partnership with him to buy a Steam Threshing Outfit and threshed some grain that fall. In the fall of 1910, they bought the Engine and an eight bottom Gang Plow and did quite a bit of breaking of prairie land. It was very dry in 1910, only ten bushels to the acre. That fall it started raining and filled up all the sloughs and lakes. Later on Jonas bought out the share his brothers had in the threshing outfit and the plows. He purchased an Oil Pull Rumely and did breaking on his place as well as for others.

He sold his first place and purchased two quarters, south of Bethany Church on the west side of the road. Later he purchased a quarter south of these.



Jonas Johnson Family. Lloyd, Alidia, Elmira, Evelyn, Hazel, William, Dad and Mother.

In 1911, Jonas married Emelie Duklet. He had a new home built on the middle quarter and this was finished shortly after 1920. At first the family lived in the Blue house which was later known as the Blue granary.

A lumber wagon and bob sled were used as means of transportaion. Around 1916 or 1917, Jonas and Lars went to Wetaskiwin and came home with their first new Ford.

A lot of the food was farm produce, home grown garden with many kinds of vegetables. Wild berries, such as raspberries, strawberries, gooseberries and saskatoons were picked and canned for jams, jellies and fruit. Wild chokecherries, pincherries and currants were made into jelly. Wheat was taken to Stettler and ground into flour, whole wheat flour, bran and wheatlets. When the family was growing it took about one hundred pounds of flour a month to feed the family as everything was home baked. Pies, cakes, muffins, bread rolls, flat bread and potato cakes were baked.

Some chickens were raised for meat and eggs. Beef and pork was butchered for meat when times could afford it. Sometimes chunks of beef were cured in a brine and hung up to dry. It was cut into very thin slices when served and so delicious.

Emelie sewed clothes for herself and the family. She was a dressmaker and had worked in a millinery shop so she sewed hats and coats too. After the family was grown, she used her talents crocheting and embroidering.

The nearest school was Glen Park. Alidia started school there in 1920. The first teacher was a Methodist preacher. He liked working mostly with the higher grades. Remember hearing those days the students were teaching the teacher. Those in Grade one played with plasticine and sticks. There were six children in the family: Alidia, Hazel, Lloyd, William, Elmira and Evelyn.

Dad had sciatica, so in the late twenties some of the family moved to Camrose for the winter. We stayed with the Farquason's, in a house that resembled a barn in shape, on the north side of Mirror Lake. We bought crackers in wooden boxes, and it was so much fun to go into the pantry and sneak a few. There was much excitement one day when the coal bin caught fire and the fire engines came. The older children stayed on the farm and went to school in Donalda. They would bring milk to us in cream cans. From Camrose we moved to Donalda. This must have been in the early thirties. Elmira and Evelyn went to school in the house that now belongs to Milton Heaters. We enjoyed the hills nearby to coast down, either with the sleigh or wagon. It was

fun roasting potatoes in the heater with Bobby and Bernice Dickey.

In 1936 we moved to Vancouver for three years. It wasn't easy finding work there, but Lloyd and William finally got a job at a box factory and at the docks. They brought home samples of salmon and cod, which made good eating.

The boys came back to the farm earlier than the rest of us, and William tells about his bread that was as fluffy as wool. He had one over on us, Elmira and Evelyn, because when we started cooking and baking bread, Dad said he should have a loaf of our bread in his trunk for a souvenir. He said if he killed old Roany, maybe by the time we got to the last roast we'd have learned how to cook, and it would be edible. He wasn't ungrateful, just honest.

We had a lot of fun in our family. Our '28 Chrysler would take us on trips to the States, visiting friends and relatives, and blueberry picking at Wabamun Lake. Our first radio was quite a thrill. We would sit and listen to Fibber Magee and Molly. Then there was the good music coming in from the Anderson's and Hilde's over the wire fence.

Dad would put up ice every winter and we made some of the most delicious banana ice cream. It was so much fun to lick the paddles.

Threshing time was always nice, for the kids anyway. There were big pans of oven fried potatoes for breakfast, lots of pies and crocks of sweet carrot pickles. The noise from the threshing machine, the straw coming out of the blower, and the smell in the air was beautiful. It made you feel happy to be a farm kid.

The folks moved to Camrose in the fifties and celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary there, with many friends and relatives. They also celebrated their sixty years of marriage at Jubilee Park, before moving to Kelowna. Dad passed away there December 22, 1971 and Mother, seven years later on December 3, 1978. Four of the children live in Summerland, and two in Alberta. There are twenty-three grandchildren and thirty-seven great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

LaForges

Ernie, Virginia and son Riel LaForge moved from an acreage in Edmonton to this area in December of 1977.

Ernie was born in 1947 in Edmonton where he attended school and received his education as mechanic and welder.

Virginia was born in 1950 in Olds and was raised on a farm near there. Upon completing grade twelve at Olds, she then went to Edmonton to train as a



Ernie LaForge, son Riel.



Virginia LaForge on her horse.

medical laboratory technologist at N.A.I.T. and the University of Alberta Hospital.

Riel was born in 1974 in Edmonton.

Ole and Anna Leboe

In 1901 Anna Marie Johnson, daughter of Peter N. Johnson, was married in her parental home at Selby, South Dakota to Ole Liabo Olson. They moved to the Dinant, Alberta area and homesteaded

the NW ¼, Sec. 14, Twp. 48, Range 20. They sold this farm in 1906 and moved to Bawlf, Alberta, where they were involved in business — the Livery Stable, a Millinery Shop and a Butcher Shop.

Ole and Anna moved to Camrose in 1911 and to Donalda in 1912. For a short while they lived above the S. P. Lee Store. Ida, the oldest girl (age 10) peeled a dishpan of onions for Mrs. Lee for ten cents, and never shed a tear.

They moved out to the Sam Hanson place, one mile west of Bethany Church, and later to the Thor Eikeland place.

In 1917 Ole and his brothers-in-law Lars and Helmer Johnson started a sawmill at Loos, B.C. — the Loos Lumber Company.

When Anna moved out with the family in 1918, they changed their name from Ole Liabo Olson to Ole Olson Leboe — an English spelling of the Norwegian “Liabo” — the homestead farm in Norway.

Ole passed away in 1937. Anna continued on at Loos until 1957 when she and her brother Helmar moved to Kelowna. She resided there until her death October 21, 1979, at the age of 93 years.

The Leboes had fifteen children, nine sons and six daughters. She is survived by three sons and two daughters included in two hundred and ninety four descendants, spanning six generations.

Arthur and Jenny Lien

Arthur Lien first came to Donalda in 1924 where his cousins, the Jerstad family, welcomed him warmly. They were happy to have a cousin from Norway come to them. In 1927 he travelled to New York City to visit his brother and it was his good fortune to meet Jenny, who had just arrived from Norway. They married and honeymooned en route to Donalda, where they settled with Uncle Jens Jerstad, a half-mile east of Bethany Church.



Arthur and Jenny Lien.

Jenny recalls the first Sunday here. After church service, neighbors for miles around came to bid her welcome. They were so friendly that she felt right at home.

During the first few years of the farm Jenny, especially, was lonesome for the sea and the fjords so she would imagine the wheatfields waving in the wind to be the water. The '30's were hard years for everyone but perhaps hardest of all for beginning farmers. The fine neighbors and Bethany Church became central to their life on the farm. Arthur was up early on Sunday mornings in winter to stoke the church furnace so people could worship in comfort. In the spring his team of horses pulled many an old car out of the mud on that corner just east of the church. Telephone meetings and Confirmation classes were held in the Lien living room to save heating up the church.



Large group of well wishers on Jenny's first Sunday at Donalda. Taken on veranda of Abraham Jerstad's home near Bethany Church. Jenny and Arthur Lien — middle front row.

Arthur and Jenny had two daughters, Margaret (Mrs. Al Harms) in Calgary, and Ruth (Mrs. Ray Dickison) in Tennessee, U.S.A. Margaret became a school teacher and Ruth, a librarian. They began their early schooling in Glen Park School and Donalda Consolidated. Later they attended Camrose Lutheran College and the University of Alberta. Jenny says her seven grandchildren are precious to her and now she is watching them grow up.

Arthur died in 1941 very suddenly, when the girls were 9 and 6 years old. After some time managing the farm, Jenny moved to Camrose. She is now living in Calgary in her own home there. Her old Donalda friends and neighbors often make her home their stopping place. She still feels those friendly and helpful neighbors of early days, among the best you can find.

Lundell Family

by Wilhelm Lundell

The Lundell family was a family of seven children born and lived in Sagmyra, Sweden. Their names were Ole, Andrew, Gustav, Peter, Maria, Britta and Kerin.

In 1890 Gustav, Ole, Andrew and Peter moved from Sagmyra, Sweden to Wheaton, Minnesota, USA. In 1895 Gustav and Peter returned to Sagmyra,



Leaving Sweden in 1919. Mrs. Selma Lundell and sons, Carl standing and Robert seated.

Sweden. Shortly after, Gustav married Selma Jacobson of Sagmyra. In 1898 their first son was born by the name of Robert. In 1901 a second son was born by the name of Carl. In 1902 Gustav returned to Wheaton, Minnesota leaving his wife and two sons in Sagmyra, again joining his two brothers Ole and Andrew. A short time later the three brothers moved to Sand Point, Idaho. In 1907, they moved once again to Alberta, Canada and homesteaded in the Meeting Creek, Donalda area. Their main income being from cattle. Many supplies were being brought from Wetaskiwin by horse and wagon, until the CNR railroad came through in 1911.

Gustav Lundell planned on bringing his wife Selma after getting established; World War I prevented this until after 1918.

His wife Selma and son Carl came over from Sweden in 1919. Robert, being caught in military draft, did not arrive in Canada until early in 1921. In the fall of 1920 a third son was born to Gustav and Selma Lundell by the name of Wilhelm. In December of 1920 Selma Lundell died; in 1922 Gustav Lundell died. Robert and Carl Lundell were unable to care for the infant Wilhelm. He went to live with the Seaquist and Odegard families for the first seven years of his life.

In 1926 Robert and Carl returned to Sweden for a visit. It was there that Robert met Anna Yordahl of Rattvik and Carl met Elna Kretz of Sagmyra Sweden.



Leaving for Sweden in 1932. Robert, Willie, Anna and Carl Lundell.

A short time later Anna and Elna arrived from Sweden, and they were married in a double wedding in Camrose February 1928. It was in 1928 that Wilhelm went back to live with his brothers Robert and Carl.

In 1929 Ole Lundell became ill and died in April of the same year.

Early in 1932 Elna returned to Sweden and in June of the same year a daughter was born by the name of Ulla. The fall of 1932 Carl, Anna and Wilhelm moved to Sweden and in the spring of 1933 Robert returned to Sweden.

The family farm was rented to the Odegard brothers. In February of 1934 a daughter was born to Robert and Anna Lundell and was named Bernice.

In early 1935 Andrew Lundell died and in February, 1935, Robert, Anne, Bernice and Wilhelm returned from Sweden and took up farming once again.

In 1954 Bernice married Alvin Bergstrom of Donalda, and in 1955 Ulla married Paul Christensen of Edmonton and Ale, Denmark. In 1960 Paul, Ulla and family moved to Ale, Denmark to take over the Christensen family farm and are still living there. In 1957 Wilhelm, then living in Calgary, married Patricia West of Eston, Sask. In 1959 a daughter was born, named Selma.

In 1962, Carl and Elna retired and moved back to Sagmyra. In November of 1964 Robert became ill and died in June of 1965. In October of the same year Elna Lundell, then living in Sagmyra died. Carl Lundell passed away in Sagmyra in 1979. Anna lives in Donalda.

Wilhelm and Selma Lundell at present live in Calgary.

Carl and Elna Lundell

by Ulla (Lundell) Christensen

My grandfather Gustav Lundell arrived in Alberta in 1902. In Sagmyra, Sweden he left his wife Selma and two sons, Robert four years old and my



Carl Lundell as a bachelor.

dad, Carl two years old. I suppose he planned to send for them a year or so later. However, he didn't see them for seventeen years.

In 1919 my father, Carl and his mother left for Canada. In October 1920 Selma and Gustav became parents of son number three, Wilhelm Richard. Selma died of cancer three months later. My uncle Robert, who was in the Swedish army did not arrive until 1921, a short time after the death of his mother.

Robert and Carl were young bachelors and when they were busy clearing land didn't take time to cook. They would go into the chicken house and crack a few eggs, down they went, one at a time, raw. Then out again to clear more land. This wasn't the life they were accustomed to, so in 1926-27 back to Sweden they went, looking for wives. There they found Anna and Elna, both nineteen years old. The girls arrived in Meeting Creek on a cold wintry day and were met



Elna and Carl Lundell.

by Carl and Robert, who drove them to the farm, five miles away. A long sleigh ride! On February 10, 1928 they were married in Camrose. In 1932 I was born in Sweden. Dad, Anna, Robert and Willie came a few months later, so Bernice was also born in Sweden. We all returned to Canada in 1935.

I went to Glen Park school from grade one to nine and took my high school in Meeting Creek and later at Camrose Lutheran College.

I remember the get-togethers we had on the farm; and the fun that was had. There were two Lundell families, the Nels Sjostroms, the Sammy Pearces, Odegards, Palmer Hagens as well as the Everett Hagan families.

In July 1955, Paul Christensen and I were married, and our first home was in Edmonton. While there our three sons were born: Vaughn in 1956, James in 1958 and Kevin in 1959. In 1961 we moved to Denmark to take over the Christensen family farm. Our joy was great when our daughter Jenny was born in 1970.

Mother and Dad returned to Sweden in 1962 to be near us. Both have passed away.

August and Christena Martin

August Martin was born in Horby, Sweden. (Near Malmo) At the age of seventeen, he went to the United States (Dakotas) where he went to school with grade one students to learn to speak English. After a few years he returned to Sweden for a short period. At the age of twenty-one he came to Canada. He worked in the Edson-Jasper area on the railroad and in Edmonton, as a steel worker on the High Level Bridge and the Parliament buildings.

Gust took a homestead north of St. Lina, Alberta. One bitterly cold winter day he returned home from St. Paul with supplies to find his place completely destroyed by fire. He then moved to Vegreville and bought a farm. In 1924 he married Christena Stewart from Beaver Lake — Mundare area. Their children, Leonard and Ella were born at Vegreville. In 1929 they moved to Bawlf where Shirley and Enid were born. In 1937 they bought N½ & S.E. 5-43-18-4 from the Aklands and moved from Bawlf in the spring of 1939. Gust cleared and brushed the bulk of these three quarters and built all new buildings. He later bought and cleared N.E. 19-42-18-4. This was C.P.R. land. Gust and Tena were hard working and Gust particularly found it difficult to retire to the village of Donalda in 1953.

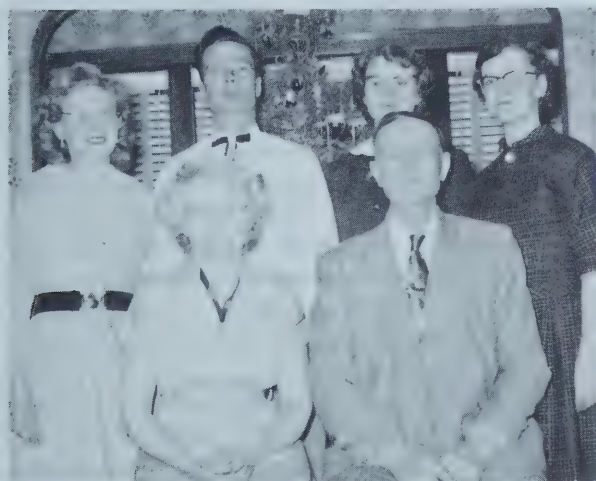
August Martin enjoyed his work. One time he was at the doctors for a medical and had to remove his shirt. The doctor noticed that his collar bone had been broken, as it was badly out of shape, so he asked



August and Christina Martin on their fortieth wedding anniversary, March 10, 1964.

him when his collar bone had been broken. August replied "Oh! I guess I must have done that last spring when I fell off the horse". He was over sixty at the time.

Leonard Martin married June Ruff of Camrose. They had three children, Dawn, Terry and Myles. June lives in Kelowna, British Columbia. Leonard passed away in a car accident in 1970. Ella married Orville Bailey, they have two sons, Douglas and Jimmie. Shirley married Ed Wick, they have four children, Gordon, Sherry, Barry and Brian and live at Hoey, Saskatchewan. Enid married Norman Moe and lives at Armena, Alberta. They have three children, Sherine, Leanne and Darren.



The August Martin Family — Ella, Leonard, Enid, Shirley, Tena and Gust.

Gust passed away July 14, 1965, at the age of 85. Tena passed away on November 26, 1976, a few days before her 82nd birthday.

Cleve Reynolds

by Floyd Reynolds

Cleveland Reynolds was born in Peterborough, Ontario and following the death of his mother, they moved to Chicago, in 1897.

They decided to come to Alberta in 1904, first arriving and staying briefly at Chigwell, then moving to Gadsby.

Cleve and his brother Bill both joined the army during World War I and served in France where they both were wounded.

Following the war Cleve married Alta Beckman, from which there were two children born, Floyd and Donna.

At the start of the depression Dad bought the S½-43-19-w4. This land had no buildings and had a fair amount of trees and brush which had to be cleared, of which a great deal was done by hand.

After being sick for a long period of time, Alta died July 9, 1935. We were living on the Bill Walker place at the time, but later that summer we moved to our new house, which was only partially completed. The house was located adjacent to where the community baseball team had their ball diamond.

The immediate neighbors were the — Odegards, Everett Hagans, Robert and Carl Lundell, S. Broughtons, S. Pearces and F. Christians.

We started school in Glen Park, the first teacher being Miss Pickering, followed by M. Beckman and E. Oberg.

We finished our public school in Ferry Point with teachers I. Oberg and C. Arneberg.

The teachers were all very dedicated with a great deal of patience, in order to teach the various grades, who attended the schools.

Cleve married Ruby Murat of which one son Ralph was born. Ralph now resides with his family in Lesser Slave Lake.

Following the war, Floyd was and still is employed by the Canadian Western Natural Gas Co. in Calgary. Floyd and his wife now reside in Balzac.

Donna is married to Donald Hagan and they now reside in Kamloops, B.C.

Cleve died June 4, 1949.

Don Saltvold Family

Don, the eldest son of Gullick and Lil Saltvold, spent most of his younger years in the Meeting Creek-Edberg area. Upon finishing school he was



Saltvold family picture — Lois, Letha, Don, Deanne, Donavan and Teresa.

employed at Cresent Spur, B.C., and in Camrose; later he went to the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute for two years.

In 1962 Don and Letha were married at Trondhjem Lutheran Church in Round Hill. Her parents, Julius and Iva Olson farmed in different places, settling in the Round Hill area. Letha was their fourth daughter. She took most of her schooling in Bardo and Round Hill, later attending for two years at the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute where she met Don.

We lived in Camrose for a short time, later moving to the Oscar Jasmen farm in the Armena area, living there for a year and a half. Deanna Lynn arrived January 16, 1963. She was the first grandchild on both sides of the family. In the spring of 1964 we moved again one half mile North to an acreage owned by Letha's uncle which later we purchased. Lois Elaine arrived August 21, 1964, a sister for Deanna. We rented a quarter of land nearby and Don farmed this along with his work in Camrose. Deanna and Lois attended the Armena School. Teresa Faye was born September 25, 1967 and our son Donavon Dale, March 29, 1970. In the spring of 1971, we moved to the Donalda area, purchasing the Gault quarter and renting the Gordon Steinhoff land. Deanna and Lois enrolled in the Meeting Creek school that fall. Our House of Worship is at Bethany Lutheran Church. We purchased the Gordon Steinhoff land in 1973. Deanna and Lois, now in high school, are going to Edberg, while Teresa and Donavon are attending the Meeting Creek School. We thank the Lord for His goodness shown towards us as a family.

The Nels Sjostrom Family

Nels Sjostrom arrived in the Donalda-Meeting Creek area from Sweden in May 1923. After visiting friends for a time, he, with Ole Erickson, went to British Columbia, where they worked in a



Nels and Otilia Sjostrom.

lumber camp at Bull River. They stayed there for a short time and then headed south to the United States. Since they had no legal papers with which to enter the United States, they had to "sneak" across the border, and after running through the bush they came to a railroad track which led them to the first town. From there they took a train to Everett, Washington, where their Uncle lived.

Ole and Nels worked in Everett for two years at the Wherhouser Lumber Mill, but shortly after, the United States Government began checking up on illegal immigrants. It was then they decided to return to Canada.

When he returned to Meeting Creek, Nels bought a coal mine two miles east of the town from Axel Lindgren. Nels recalls many good times at the mine. He also enjoyed playing his accordion at house parties and at dances in and around Meeting Creek.



Nels, Henry, and Leonard in first crop — 1939.

In 1927, he made a trip back to Sweden. Upon his return in the fall, he with Carl Johnson and Emil Englund, purchased a quarter of land two miles north of Meeting Creek. That winter they had cleared one hundred acres by hand and by the next summer it was broken. In 1929, Carl left and went on his own.

Mrs. Sjostrom (then Otilia Holmberg) came to Canada on September 1, 1929. She landed in Halifax and due to a change in immigration laws was detained there for week. Until officials received confirmation that she had a place to go to and someone to support her, she was kept in what seemed like a jail. Upon arrival in Edmonton on September 11th, was married to Nels on the 13th and came to Meeting Creek on the 14th.

Farm life in Canada was quite a change from her nursing career in Sweden. Problems they encountered included mud roads, dust storms and winter blizzards. Along with these problems, they had no power or water works, but managed to survive the bad times along with the good.

In July 1932, Henry was born in the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. Mr. Sjostrom's mother passed away in the fall of 1933, and it was then they returned to Sweden for her funeral. It was while there that Leonard was born. They remained in Sweden until June 1934, then returned to Meeting Creek.

Nels continued to farm with Emil Englund until 1935. Nels then bought a half section of raw land six and half miles east of Meeting Creek from the Hudson's Bay Company. They first lived in an old house half mile east of the Bethany church, across from the old Arthur Lien place. A year later they moved two miles north into the house that was later known as "Anderson's Store".

Nels rented some land from Ole Anderson of Donaldda for a couple of years and at the same time was clearing and breaking his own land. In 1939, the

Sjostrom's built a house on their own land, where their son Leonard and his family now live.

In those days Mrs. Sjostrom served as the local nurse and midwife. She helped to deliver a number of babies and gave many injections. Henry and Leonard took their first years at Glen Park, and then in 1947, went to Meeting Creek. Henry went on to the Camrose Lutheran College, then to the Lutheran College in Wahoo, Nebraska, and the Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. After graduating, he worked in Edmonton, Great Bear Lake, the Athabasca Tar Sands, and in the Grand Valley, Colorado. It was here he met his wife, Sue, who was from Boston, Massachusetts. A short time later lovesick Henry followed her back to Boston, where they were married in December 1966. They now reside in Holliston, Massachusetts, where Henry is working for a home care agency and Sue is teaching school.

After finishing school in Meeting Creek, Leonard stayed on the farm, working out during the winters. He spent one winter in Edson, the next winter in Dawson Creek and for several years worked for a survey firm in Edmonton. It was there he met his wife Barbara. They were married in June 1966 and now live on the farm. They have two children, Cheryl and Grant.

When Leonard finally got married, Nels and Thea retired to Donaldda. They lived there until 1977, when they moved to Camrose. Due to poor health, Nels is now in the Bethany Nursing Home and Thea is living at Wild Rose Villa. Nels is now 87 and Thea will be 80 in January 1980.

Mike Sydor Family

Mike Sydor served in World War 1 with the Austrian Army and following his discharge from the army, he took up cabinet making as a trade in the Ukraine. Due to unstable conditions in the country,



Mr. and Mrs. Mike Sydor, 1933.



Mr. and Mrs. Mike Sydor's fiftieth wedding anniversary (1972). Back row — Fred, Eugene, Willie. Middle row — Mr. and Mrs. Mike Sydor, Mrs. Willie Sydor. Front row — Elaine and Rosanne.



Melvin Ramstad, Fred Sydor and John Petrovich.

he decided to come to Canada in 1927. He worked in the Rosalind district on farms and coal mines.

He then purchased N.E. 6-43-17-w4 from Mrs. Jim Laboucane of Duhamel. The farm, fortunately, had a house and a stable making it a little easier to get started. After establishing the farm, Mike brought his wife Rosalia and son Willie from the Ukraine in 1932. Several years later son, Fred, was added to the family. In 1972, Mike and Rosalia celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. At present, the family is still living in the same district.

Ibsen School District

IBSEN SCHOOL DISTRICT No 2132 HOMESTEADERS. By Anna Marie Matheson				ALFRED BERG OLE A BROUGHTON	
32 PETER JOHNSON CASPER HENDALL		33		34 TOM VIKSE JOSEPH VIKSE	
SCHOOL 29 LAND		28 ANDREW LUNDALL R.J. STOLEE TOM SOLMONSON STEVE SOLMONSON IBSEN		27 HBC PAT SWEENEY HBC	
19 LUDVIG OLSEN ELLERT KNUDTSON 20 STENER HILDE OLE STANVICK		21 JACK MATHEWSON SIGURD BROUGHTON 22 OSCAR BJORLE CARL ARNEBERG		23	
18 FRITZ REIKE BERT IRWIN LOU BATKE SCPHIA JACOBSON		16 OLE JACOBSON TOM WESTGARDE PETER STANVICK MATTIAS STANVICK		15 JONAS JOHNSON ANDERSON 14 CHAS LAYHER ANDERSON	
7 HBC Creek HBC		9 JOHN TROTTLAND GEORGE QUESSETT ED JOHNSON WILL JOHNSON		11 SCHOOL LAND	

Ibsen School District No. 2102

The trustees of Ibsen School District No. 2102 met for organization on the 15th of January, 1910 at the residence of Peter N. Johnson. Trustees present were O. A. Broughton, J. R. Stolee, Peter N. Johnson. Peter Johnson was elected chairman and O. A. Broughton was elected Secretary-Treasurer. The name Ibsen was chosen from a great Norwegian poet and dramatist, Henrik Ibsen. The school site was two acres on the S.E. corner of Charlie Layher's land sec. 28-42-18-W4. The sum of one thousand dollars was borrowed on the security of the Ibsen School District for the purpose of erecting and furnishing the school. Two bids were received for the erection of the school, one for \$255 and one for \$175. Being the lowest, Charlie Layher's bid was accepted. Tom Westgarde helped with the building.



Eleanor Cook.

On July 4th, 1910 the trustees gathered to inspect the new school. It was found the contractor had faithfully performed his part of the contract. He had also done some work not specified so was paid another \$25 above the original bill.

In the fall of the year, Miss Jorgine Hendrickson was hired to teach one hundred days of school at \$60.00 per month. The following year it was decided to hold school at least seven months, beginning the first of March if possible. The total number of children attending was fifteen. Average daily attendance was 8.8, so the necessity of parents sending their children regularly was emphasized. For several years following they had six months of school.

In 1915, a stable and coal shed was to be built for the benefit of those who drove to school. In 1922,



Doreen Anderson.

school taxes were difficult to pay as prices were low for grain and cattle. It was noted that in 1923 at the meeting of the ratepayers there were eleven gentlemen and one lady in attendance. We wonder who the brave lady was.

When Agnes Stolee taught in 1921 she stayed at home. That year her brother Mike drove the single horse and buggy and took his schooling at Ibsen instead of Norbo. In the spring of 1924, Agnes stayed in a granary. Alice Stolee tells of this experience in the following story.

Edna Hagen and I attended Ibsen the spring of 1924. We needed tutoring in Grade ten subjects before provincial examinations. Agnes was willing to do this for an hour after school each day. Edna and I promised to cook suppers so that the teacher could have time for lesson preparations.

The three of us lived in Henry Johnson's twelve by twelve single walled pump-house which had been moved to a sheltered spot on open land a quarter of a mile east of the school. It had one small window and no screens to keep out the clouds of mosquitoes. Our furniture consisted of a three sectional cot, an old



Ibsen Pupils — Stanviks, Broughtons, Hildes. Oscar Jacobson on horse "Nigger".

four-lid cook stove, a cupboard made of four stacked boxes, a kerosene lamp and a small table. For seats we have an old chair, a backless chair and an apple box. A woven rag strip covered some of the knot-holes in the middle of the unpainted door. The walls were papered with newspaper.

Field mice made frequent raids. The spring was beautiful all around. We enjoyed the time in the shack and at school. It was so much fun to sing with and become better acquainted with the other twenty-six pupils of Ibsen.

Alice adds that she enjoyed teaching in Ibsen for two years. Dorothy Johnson lived with her in the teacherage 1936-37 and Charlotte Vikse in 1937-38.

In 1926 a teacherage was added to the school and an entry made at the front. Matt. Olson was hired to do this work at \$5.00 per day. John Vikse was to help him. Many of the lady teachers had young girls staying with them. They had mice and salamanders to contend with.

Many former students have remarked on the good teachers they had in Ibsen. Mr. Ekstrom spent four years here, and his spelling, geography and arithmetic matches are well remembered. Anyone who had Ekstrom as a teacher should never forget the time-tables and certainly would be a good reader.

The interesting highlights from the forties are related by May Bjorge.

The roads were so bad sometimes that our horses couldn't get through the snow, but we would always make it on foot. I remember one time it was so muddy we would lose our shoes and rubber boots in the mud. One time I left my muddy shoes at Mudry's gate and walked barefoot the rest of the way to school. On the way home I went to pick up my muddy shoes and they were all cleaned and polished.

One Friday afternoon in 1940, during a fierce thunderstorm the N.W. corner of the teacherage was hit by lightning. Considerable damage was done to

the teacherage. It left an opening wide enough to walk through. Genevieve Friend (Sather) was teacher at the time so spent the rest of the year at Cooks.

School was closed sometimes during polio outbreaks. Often they wouldn't open in September. Young people were discouraged from any public gathering.

There was a shortage of teachers in the mid-forties. During this time May Bjorge supervised when the children took correspondence. She stayed in the teacherage and during the cold winter months her brother Roy and sister Rhoda and two Jacobson children stayed with her.

Ibsen was officially closed in 1955. There were eight pupils in grade one that year. A community school picnic was held on the last day.

To the best of our knowledge the following is a list of the teachers who have taught at Ibsen:

Miss Jorgine Hendrickson, S. McNally, Mr. E. Max Beckwith, Mr. Wm. Baylis, Mr. W. A. Redel, Mr. William Schallert, Miss Hall, Miss E. D. Le Sever, Miss Nellie M. Atteby, Mr. E. A. Winter, Miss Constance Stolee, Miss Young, Miss Mussette Mae Egy, Miss Ruth Goodhand, Miss Lucia E. Vernal, Miss Agnes Stolee, Miss Dorothy Mason, Miss Verina B. Ott, Miss Irene Bunyan, Mr. T. Wm. Nordin, Mr. Charles Douglas, Mrs. Edna M. Winter, Miss Helen Dewar, Miss Julia Johnson, Miss Annie Vikse, Miss Clara Jerstad, Miss Alice Stolee, Miss Dora Campbell, Miss Eleanor Grant (Cook), Miss May Whamond, Mr. Wayne French, Mrs. Anne Heatly, Miss Doreen Anderson, Miss L. M. Tschirren, Mrs. Doris Pearson.

Ibsen Community Society

During the winter of 1952-53 several of the residents in the Ibsen community decided to hold a card party to break the winter doldrums. The party was held at the home of Alice and Henry Graf and was such a resounding success that during the remainder of that winter and the winter of 1953-54 more parties were held in various district homes. Also during that winter it was decided to form a club and to obtain the use of the Ibsen School, which had been built about 1912, as a central location to hold social events. Since the Centennial School had been closed and moved away, and the children from the two districts were attending Ibsen, this seemed a logical choice.

Information was then received that Stettler School Division planned to close Ibsen as well and bus the children to Donalda. The decision was quickly made to purchase the school for use as a commun-



Ibsen School.

ity center. In order to do this, the Ibsen Community Society was incorporated and registered with the Province of Alberta in 1956.

During the years from formation to the present, the following family names have appeared on the membership rolls: Cook, Whamond, Pearson, Anderson, Graf, Hagen, Boulter, Hanson, Blouin, Albers, Jones, Batke, Halseide, Nordvie, Ramstad, Mudry, Kobi, Jacobson, Martin, Damberger, Holladay, Grams, Vikse, Sjostrom, Kneeland, Evans, Barron, Orr, Schweer, Bailey, Knudtson and more that memory fails to recall.

Life Memberships in the Society have been granted to: Archie Whamond Sr., Eleanor and Jack Cook, Edna and Archie Whamond Jr. and Henry Hanson.

Early records of the Society show that the first elected Board consisted of the following: President — Jack Cook; Vice-President — Archie Whamond Sr.; Secretary-Treasurer — Mrs. Palmer (Berit) Hagen; Directors — Melvin Anderson, Henry Graf, Leon Boulter.

The pioneer spirit has prevailed in the district, perhaps because it is somewhat sparsely populated. The Center has survived as the focal point in the community long after most such small schools have been completely abandoned. Card parties, Socials, Uniform meetings, Showers, Farewells, Summer Picnics and many other activities have been and still are, a part of it's history. For a time Church services were held each Sunday.

Time and space prevent detailed recording of all the memorable events that have taken place but a few will serve to show the spirit of the community. We recall the night of a scheduled card party when the temperature dropped to 40 below zero. Means of travel were not what they are today and common sense indicated that the party should be called off. However with very few telephones it was a case of every one deciding for themselves. One of the best turnouts of the winter played cards that night.

On another occasion a Christmas party was planned so that the young people could enjoy a visit from Santa. During the day a severe snow storm struck the district and by evening some roads were impassable. As luck would have it, the roads right at the Center seemed particularly bad. The Whamond family extended an invitation that the party could be held at their home for those who could make it. In one manner or another most of the families arrived at the Whamond's and Santa made his usual visit. Robert Boulter and Betty, his new bride, were one couple who did not make it to the party. The Leon Boulter's stayed overnight at Whamond's and the

next day Archie and Leon broke a trail across country to the former Henry Graf farm which Robert had purchased. Quite an introduction to country living for Betty who had been raised in Calgary.

On another memorable occasion the men from Ibsen, with the help of a few of the ladies, put on a fashion show at a variety night in Donaldda. The laughter could be heard for miles and Bert Stanvik, who modelled the "maternity fashions" received several Get Well cards in the days following the event.

On the occasion of Donaldda's 60th Anniversary, in 1973, many of the returnees came to Ibsen where they had started their school days. Several hours were spent renewing old acquaintances and reliving old experiences. Five former teachers were in attendance. They were: 1 Mrs. Alice Stolee; 2. Mrs. Bert Friend (Gen Sather); 3. Mrs. Jack Cook (Eleanor Grant); 4. Mrs. Clara Nepstad (Jerstad); 5. Mrs. Oscar Pearson (Doris).

Over the years the various events held at Ibsen have always received support from Donaldda residents, and as a sign of appreciation, Ibsen Community Society contributed a sum of money to the Donald and District Community Council for use in furnishing a room in Stettler Hospital.

Today the Ibsen Community Society is receiving the support of a second generation of community residents, as well as some of the originals. We are very pleased that the decision was made back in 1954 to not let the school go into oblivion as so many others had. Today with modern improvements such as electricity, propane, shuffleboard, table tennis and, of course, the most important ingredient of all, interested people, the Center and the District are still living entities.

Bethany Lutheran Church

In a little Norwegian settlement six miles north of what is now Donaldda, Rev. C.M. Nodtvedt presided over a meeting at the Samuel Akland home, that resulted in the organization of Bethany Lutheran Congregation. It was a day in late summer, September 6, 1903. Temporary officers were elected, and a constitution adopted. Pastor Nodtvedt lived in Edberg during these years, and had several preaching places. In 1902 he helped organize a congregation in Bawlf, and also served in Camrose.

When the first annual meeting was held at the B. J. Stolee home on March 30, 1904, there were ten charter members: Niels Eikelands, Ole N. Eikeland, Jacob T. Vikses, Jacob M. Stolees, Samuel L. Aklands, Jens Jerstad, Thor Eikeland, Haakon Stolee, B. J. Stolees, Torres T. Vikses and Abraham Jerstad.

The Bethany Ladies' Aid also had its beginning



Bethany — then and now.

in the fall of 1903, at the home of Rosenberg Stolee, with ten ladies present. Mrs. Jacob Vikse was elected president and Mrs. B. J. Stolee, secretary-treasurer.

Devotional and Prayer meetings were held regularly. Sunday School has also been conducted regularly since the church was organized. B. J. Stolee and Jacob Vikse were the first teachers.

In 1905, Norbo School was built two miles Northeast of the present church, thus giving the congregation another meeting place for some of its activities. The school was moved in 1910 to its present location.

At a Christmas program in 1906 the young people of the district displayed such fine talent, that it was decided to organize a Young People's Society. The winter of 1906-07 had a record snow fall, with deep drifts and severe cold; however, by February 24, it was possible to hold the organizational meeting of the Onward Luther League at the home of Tom Vikse. The members were an enthusiastic lot, and by 1908 contributions had even made a library possible.

The "Pige-Forening" was an organization for the girls. This was started by Amalia Stolee about 1908. This organization later became the L.D.R. - Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation. Quilts and other handiwork was made by the girls — this was also the case for the Ladies Aid. Then the articles were sold by auction. The girl's society paid for the first organ for the Bethany Church.

By 1909 Einar O. Quesseth had organized the local talent into a very fine musical group, known as the "Normanna Male Chorus." Most of the members of the chorus were also members of the Onward Luther League.

Rev. O. N. T. Sörhus (who were serving Camrose and other areas at the time) was also pastor in Bethany in 1908, until Rev. S. L. Klyve came in 1909. In this year the deed for the Bethany Church cemetery was obtained. Then, too, twelve members of the congregation subscribed \$1,035 toward the building of a church. An additional \$600 was borrowed from the Church Extension Fund. Digging of the basement was begun in July. This same year the congregation was incorporated under the laws of the



Girls Aid at B. J. Stolee, 1937. Back Row — Marjorie Rutter, Helen Hagen, Evelyn Anderson, Dorothy Johnson, Ruth Edenloff, Ruby Broughton, Doris Johnson, Charlotte Vikse, Violet Blomgren, Gladys Edenloff. Center Row — Amy Rutter, Anne Hoffman, Beatrice Vikse, Norma Branes, Marie Gronlund, Anne Marie Johnson, Inez Johnson, Ulla Lundell, Alice Kneeland, Caroline Kneeland, Margaret Lien. Front Row — Berniece Vikse, Berniece Lundell, Marion Vikse, Alice Johnson, Ruth Lien, Marie Edenloff.

province of Alberta. In 1909, what is thought to have been the first circuit meeting held in the district, was hosted by the Bethany congregation.

In 1910, it is recorded that the congregation had representatives at the meeting of the Alberta School Association, for the purpose of starting a Lutheran college in Camrose. Through the years, Bethany has supported C.L.C. with gifts and prayers. Many of its young people, too, have received some of their education within these halls of learning.

In the early days, public school wasn't held during the winter months, so the congregation made use of some of this time for holding parochial school. In 1911, 23 children attended from February 20 to March 17, and March 22 to April 13. Caroline Olufson was the teacher.

Mr. Ole Mosby, a layman and travelling evangelist from the Erling area, was acting pastor in 1912, but in 1913 Rev. S. L. Klyve returned, and stayed until 1921. By 1913 the church was nearing completion, and was being used. At this time, the parish consisted of Bawlf, Erling and Bethany.

It is very interesting to note that the first and only wedding to be conducted in this Church was that of George and Sina Queseth, on June 24, 1913. Constance Stolee and Betsy Jerstad (Sina's sister) were bridesmaids. Best men were Olaf Queseth and August Vikse. Officiating at the wedding was the Rev. S. L. Klyve. ~

On June 17, 1914, a storm passed through and lifted the newbuilt church from its foundation and turned it on to its side. This was a disappointment, indeed, but by December, 1915, a new church had been erected and was sufficiently ready for use. A record book states that \$30.00 was paid on October 4 for plaster for a new building. Charlie Layer was in charge of building this second church.

A minute book shows a very active Young People's Society during these years. We are including the minutes of their Christmas Program that was held on December 26, 1913.

The program consisted of the following:

- 1. Welcome speech B.J. Stolee
- 2. Song by Choir "Nearer My God to Thee"
- 3. Recitation Bernard Vikse
- 4. Recitation Vernie Russell
- 5. Illustrated Song Minnie Olufson
- 6. Recitation Anna T. Vikse
(John Vikse's sister)
- 7. Recitation Chester Stolee
- 8. Song Nathaniel Jepson
- 9. Recitation Olava Arneberg
- 10. Song by choir "Eden"
- 11. Recitation Jacob Stolee

- 12. Recitation Gerhard Hilde
- 13. Recitation Anna J. Vikse
Mrs. L. Bergum
- 14. Violin music George Queseth
- 15. Recitation Selmer Stolee
- 16. Recitation Peter Hilde
- 17. Recitation Sophie Hilde
- 18. Song Alma and Ida Jerstad
- 19. Reading Carrie Olufson
- 20. Recitation Percy Olsen
- 21. Recitation Michael Stolee
(Rosenberg Stolee's son)
- 22. Organ Solo Betsy Jerstad
- 23. Reading Constance Stolee
- 24. Speech O.A. Broughton
- 25. Recitation Alfred Vikse
- 26. Recitation Ida Jerstad
- 27. Recitation Oscar Jerstad
- 28. Song by Choir "God Be With You"

Distributing of presents and eatables was performed by Conrad Vikse, Michael Vikse, Helmar Johnson, M. Olson, Peter Stolee and others.
Geo. Queseth
Sec., Y.P. Society

Parochial School continued to give the children a good grounding in the Word of God. In 1913 it was held from January 27 to February 21, with 19 pupils. In 1917, parochial school began August 6, and continued for six weeks, with twenty-five pupils and Mabel Hendrickson as teacher.

In 1918, Anne Hendrickson taught a class of twenty-five from March 4 to April 6. It is interesting to note the youngest in this class was five-year-old Mike Stolee.

Bethany's share of Pastor Klyve's salary for four months in 1920 was \$65.00. He left in 1921, and Rev. Thomas Knutson from Nebraska took over the parish for a year or two. In 1923 and 1924 Rev. John Nilsen was pastor. Rev Nilsen also travelled to Spruce Coulee to conduct services. During this time some of the church furnishings were built. Knute Collin built the pulpit; the altar ring and railings were built by Ole Hoyme; and the baptismal font by Peter Johnson.

Constance Stolee taught parochial school from June 30 to July 18 in 1924, with thirty-seven pupils attending. She taught them these English songs: "Jesus Only," "In Heaven Above," "I Am So Glad," and "Jesus Loves Me." Norwegian was the language commonly used.

In 1924, Rev. Knute Lokensgaard was ordained at Bethany, and installed as pastor. When Rev. A. Tveit came to the parish in 1926, it was changed to



Ladies Aid at B. J. Stolee, 1937. (l to r) B. J. Stolee, Pastor Tveit, Jacob Vikse, Mrs. Carl Lundell, Mrs. Walter Edenloff, Mrs. Conrad Vikse, Mrs. Henry Johnson, Mrs. Rutter, Mrs. A. Anderson, Mrs. Ted Hagen, Mrs. Percy Dennis, Mrs. Bottorf, Mrs. Edenloff, Mrs. Robert Lundell, Mrs. Alfred Vikse, Mrs. B. J. Stolee, Mrs. Branes, Mrs. Carlson, Mrs. Lien, Mrs. Gronlund.



Bethany Ladies Aid at Mrs. Palmer Hagen's 1953. Back Row — Charlotte Vikse holding Dale Vikse, Mrs. Esther Vikse, (partly hidden, Evelyn Vikse and Tina Martin), Mrs. Mina Johnson, Mrs. Joe Saltvold, Mrs. Gladys Vikse, Mrs. Evelyn Anderson, Mrs. Abel Blomgren, Mrs. Doris Stolee, Mrs. Caroline Johnson, holding Cathy, Lila Anderson, Leone Edenloff, Berit Hagen, June Martin, Mrs. Hanny Collin, partly hidden — Letha Knudston, Anna and Elna Lundell. Included in the children's group are Irene Anderson, Beverly Copeland, Yvonne Anderson, Sharon Vikse, Forrest Hagen, Marilyn Vikse. In front — Mrs. Andrea Anderson, and Mrs. Carolina Hagen. (partly hidden Doug Hagen.)

include Morrin, Edberg and Bethany. This year, the congregation also decided to have every third service in English.

Pastor A. Tveit was with Bethany from 1926 to 1929, left for a year in Washington, and returned to stay until 1938. In 1929 Pastor Tveit surprised everyone by marrying one of the daughters of the congregation, Hannah Stolee. He also performed several

weddings in Bethany during his ministry here. Leonard and Annie Bergum, Eilert and Katrina Knudtson, Alfred and Gladys Vikse, Joseph and Esther Johnson, Wilfred and Lila Anderson, Mike and Doris Stolee were all married at Bethany. Walter and Leone Edenloff were married during this time also, but not in Bethany. This must have been a period of romance!

One noteworthy event during the early thirties were the Collins and Thomas meetings held in the community for several weeks one winter. Many people were won to the Lord during these meetings.

In 1930, Bethany's share of Pastor Tviet's salary was \$300. English services were becoming more and more common. For a while both English and Norwegian services were held on a Sunday, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, and alternating between Norbo and Bethany. Sometimes services were held in Glen Park. Christmas programs were generally always held on the second day of Christmas. The Ladies' Aid usually held a very successful picnic on or around July 1st, complete with booths made from poplar branches, big bunches of bananas hanging up, freezers full of home-made ice cream, games and races, and very well-planned devotional programs.

In 1935 the Circuit Meeting was held in Bethany from March 19 to 22. This year, too, services were cancelled for six weeks because of a polio epidemic.

The following is an interesting item from the cash book for the year 1937:

Cash receipts	\$31.36
Cash paid out	\$30.98
Cash on hand	.38

This must have excluded donations for the pastor's salary.

A tower was added to the church building in the thirties, greatly enhancing its beauty. This was a co-operative venture headed by Henry Johnson. Selmar Stolee donated much time to this project also.

In March, 1937, a parsonage was bought in Edberg from Mrs. Hustad for \$950. Many improvements were made during the time it was used. The pastors who lived in it were A. Tveit, J. O. Reitan, E. Haave, S. Rude and R. Heng (for a short while). This parsonage was sold in 1963 and moved out of Edberg.

Rev. J. O. Reitan was Bethany's pastor from 1939 to 1941. He also served New Norway, as did most of our succeeding pastors.

On June 7, 1942, a seminary student, Rev. E. Haave came to our parish. He carried on a fruitful ministry until 1947.

Improvements were made on the church build-

ing. Tintex was used to line the interior, and paint applied. Mr. Knute Collin built the altar, and a talented barber from Edberg painted the Good Shepherd for it.

The church had never been dedicated, so this was done when the Camrose Circuit Meeting was held at Bethany, June 18 to 20, 1943. The cornerstone was also laid. Officiating were Iver Iverson, President of the Canada District; Rev. K. O. Kandal, President of the Camrose Circuit; and Rev. Haave.

Members of Bethany in 1943 were the following: Alfred Anderson, Wilfred Anderson, Leonard Bergum, Knute Collin, Walter Edenloff, Ted Hagen, Mrs. S. Hilde, Henry Johnson, Clifford Johnson, Joe Johnson, Oscar Jerstad, Eilert Knudtson, Gordon Knudtson, Mrs. Arthur Lien, B. J. Stolee, Mike Stolee, Alfred Vikse, Conrad Vikse, and John Vikse.

In 1943, a bell was ordered from the U. S. and presented to our church by the B. J. Stolee family and the Jacob Vikse children. The tower had to be extended to accomodate the bell, and K. Collin braved the heights to accomplish this.

On August 25, 1948, Rev. S. J. Rude came to Bethany from Lake Alma, Sask., to render faithful service until 1960.

In 1949, a big improvement was made at the church! With the \$100.00 from the Ladies Aid, \$100.00 from the L.D.R., \$25.00 from the Luther League and other donations, we were able to buy a lighting plant and put the gas lamps in storage! In 1952, Farm Electric Services were busy in the district, and Bethany received power. Several other improvements were made in the fifties. Some new pews were purchased, and new paint jobs were evident, both inside and out. A stoker was purchased.

Bethany celebrated its fiftieth anniversary from July 31 to August 2, 1953, with Dr. Haakon Stolee, a L.B.I. faculty member from Seattle, Washington, as guest speaker. Mrs. Leone Edenloff made a special anniversary cake in the shape of Bethany Church.

During Pastor Rude's stay in Bethany in 1953, the Red Deer Lake Bible Camp came into being. This camp has continued to grow over the year and has proven to be a great blessing. Bethany L.C.W. takes it turn in bringing food and serving at camp. The majority of Bethany's children attend, along with half or more of the L.C.W. mothers.

One year, Bethany, New Norway and Edberg, enjoyed surprising Pastor Rude with a special gift—a brand new 1951 Plymouth car.

When Pastor Rude left, Evangelist and Mrs. Clarence Haaland came to serve in 1960 and 1961. Everyone was richly blessed through their ministry, and was unhappy to see them leave so soon.

Rev. Rolf Heng arrived from St. Paul Seminary in September, 1961, to be our new pastor. A new parsonage was being built in Edberg, and was ready for the Hengs in February, 1963.

At Bethany in 1966, the church was moved, and a new basement was poured to replace the old. The church was moved back, a propane furnace installed, and the new basement completed with panelling and a kitchen. A new lawn was planted.

Canada's Centennial year 1967 again brought a new pastor into our midst — Rev. Allen Severson from Kindersley, Sask. Also at this time we had a "Membership Sunday" when our friends from the Ferry Point Church joined our congregation. Many blessings have come to us from this union, and we at Bethany have enjoyed so much the fellowship of these new members. It was the Ferry Point members that presented Bethany with a beautiful new Baldwin organ.

Rev. Allen Severson served the parish until April, 1973, at which time he took a position at Bethany Home and Hospital in Camrose.

Extensive renovations to the church building, including a new entry, were completed in time for the congregation's 70th. Anniversary celebrations in September 1973. The new pastor, Rev. Martin Knudson had arrived in August. When he left, Rev. Arthur Nelson arrived from Dawson Creek, to take over the work of the parish.

The 75th Anniversary was celebrated on Thanksgiving Sunday, 1978. Special thanks was given for seventy-five years of blessing from Almighty God. Throughout the years, Bethany has sought to be a "lighthouse on the corner", pointing men and women to the Lord.

Bethany Cemetery

Anna Eikeland, 1908.
Knutiana Stolee, 1910.
Ada A. Haugstad, 1910.
Alfred Odegard, 1910.
Hans Ellefson, 1911.
Elsie M. Westgarde 1912.
Jacob M. Stolee, 1912.
John H. Olsen, 1916.
Amalia Stolee, 1917.
Haakon Stolee, 1918.
Hilda Vikse, 1918.
Arnold M. Vikse, 1919.
Albina Tomuseak, 1920.
Peter J. Stanvik, 1920.
Annie Hagen, 1921.
Ella Stanvik, 1921.
John O. Johnson. 1923.

Charles F. Smith, 1925.
 Ole Anonson, 1926.
 Olene Anonson, 1926.
 Baby Knudtson, 1926.
 Martha Knudtson, 1926.
 Lloyd A. Anonson, 1928.
 Anna Johnson, 1928.
 Carrie Akland, 1929.
 Mathew Hagen, 1929.
 Astrid L. Collin, 1930.
 Lila V. Edenloff, 1930.
 Mariet Stanvik, 1931.
 Peter N. Johnson, 1932.
 Anna S. Peterson, 1934.
 Edwin Haugstad, 1935.
 Albert O. Tveit, 1935.
 Aasa K. Vikse, 1935.
 Stanley Halseide, 1936.
 Marlin O. Jacobson, 1937.
 Johannes T. Hagen, 1938.
 David Lien, 1938.
 Alvera R. Harder, 1938.
 Stener A. Hilde, 1938.
 Gilbert Haugstad, 1938.
 Inger Marie Edenloff, 1939.
 Carol Ruth Vikse, 1939.
 Mari Hagen, 1940.
 Arthur Lien, 1941.
 Jens Jerstad, 1941.
 Charles Layher, 1941.
 Norman P. Johnson, 1942.
 Jacob T. Vikse, 1942.
 Nels O. Edenloff, 1943.
 Martha Ellefson, 1943.
 Henry M. Johnson, 1943.
 Joyce A. Vikse, 1944.
 Ole Jacobson, 1947.
 Samuel L. Akland, 1950.
 Abraham Jerstad, 1950.
 Marie Jerstad, 1950.
 Jacob R. Stolee, 1950.
 Selma Johnson, 1952.
 Sigurd Broughton, 1953.
 Maria Jacobson, 1953.
 Helen L. Edenloff, 1954.
 Gertrude M. Hilde, 1954.
 B. J. Stolee, 1955.
 Rosenberg Vikse, 1955.
 Mollie Stolee, 1956.
 J. Alfred Anderson, 1956.
 David M. Knudtson, 1957.
 John Torvald Hagen, 1957.
 Hans Halseide, 1958.
 Ralph E. Smith, 1958.

Eilert Knudtson, 1959.
 Ole P. Stanvik, 1960.
 Mina E. Johnson, 1960.
 Niels M. Johnson, 1960.
 John Akland, 1961.
 Clifford A. Johnson, 1963.
 Peter W. Hilde, 1964.
 August H. Martin, 1965.
 Henry M. Edenloff, 1965.
 Anna C. Stolee, 1965.
 John T. Vikse, 1966.
 Olga V. Smith, 1967.
 Otto M. Stanvik, 1968.
 Philip W. Stolee, 1968.
 Shirley Ann Peterson, 1969.
 Maria Stanvik, 1970.
 Carl Stolee, 1970.
 Lilly Leone Edenloff, 1971.
 Andrea Anderson, 1972.
 Oscar M. Jacobson, 1972.
 B. August Vikse, 1972.
 Conrad J. Vikse, 1974.
 Rev. Amund Tveit, 1974.
 Lee Ann Schweer, 1976.
 Harold A. Edenloff, 1976.
 Gina Isabelle Broughton, 1976.
 Knut Collin, 1976.
 Christena M. Martin, 1976.
 Inga Marie Knudtson, 1976.
 Oscar A. Haugstad, 1978.
 Geyhard Hilde, 1978.
 Bernt Haugstad, 1979.
 Rita Marie Kneeland, 1979.
 Sydney O. Sherriff, 1979.

The Alveberg Family

In 1922 Mrs. Carrie Alveberg (nee Stanvik) and her daughters Lorna and Maude and her son Clifford moved to the Donalds district. We came to live with Grandma Stanvik and Uncle Matt on the Peter Stanvik farm (now owned by John Stanvick). Carrie died in the early spring of 1966. Lorna and Maude reside in Calgary and Clifford is in Vernon, B.C.

The only means we had of travel was by horses and buggy, driven by our neighbors, the Henriksons and Uncle Ole. Anytime we wanted to go to town they would stop by and pick us up.

We attended Ibsen School and then High School in Donalds. At that time Olaf Nordvie was the van driver.

Our neighbors were the Ole Jacobsons on the North, and to the east, the Rake family and later the Peter Nordvie family. Southeast were the Henriksons. Uncle Iver lived south of us.

We attended Sharon Lutheran Church and Ladies Aid. Lorna and Maude were confirmed there.

Maude married Robert Coates from Eastern Canada.

Lorna married Ken Landridge also from the east. They have three children.

Terry, the oldest is married to Louisa Van Greiken and they have three small children: Gregory, Kirsty and Ryan. Terry is assistant manager of Macleods in Edmonton, and lives at Leduc, Alberta. Sheryl is secretary to the assistant manager at the Royal Bank Head Office in Calgary. She is engaged to be married to Brian McCord of Stettler.

Brenda is an office clerk for Trotter and Morton Plumbing and Heating in Calgary.

Clifford Alveberg married a Calgary girl. Clifford and Agnes have a son James living in Vernon, B.C., where he is a Director of Parks and Recreation.

James and Lydia have two sons Chris and Scott, who are both in school.

Carl and Kari Arneberg

The following is a translation of an article which my mother wrote for "Hallingdal", a Norwegian paper, December 1954.



Carl and Kari Arneberg.

First of all I would like to introduce ourselves. My husband, Carl Arneberg, came from Vestfossen in Eiker. I am from Torpe, Hallingdal, born in a small house located in the midst of pine and evergreen.

We were married in Norway in 1902 and two months later we left for America. We went to Hills, Minnesota, where my Aunt Guri and Uncle Knut Sire lived. They were also from Hallingdal. We lived at Hills for four years but my husband never found work that was to his liking. He worked as a section man on the railroad for \$1.25 a day. Out of this, we paid for groceries, clothes, taxes or rent and fuel.

In 1906 we left for Canada, as my husband thought that he would like to farm. We had a fifteen month old daughter, Olava.

We arrived by train at Wetaskiwin. We were met by my brother-in-law, Ole Haugen, who came for us in a lumber wagon. My sister, Sissel, also came to Canada at the same time and she and Ole were married at Wetaskiwin — the honeymoon was the trip home in the lumber wagon. We drove forty miles to his farm eight miles south of Edberg.

In 1908, we took up a homestead five miles east of Donald. In order to get enough money to buy a horse, we worked for C.J. Erickson, and took care of his farm as he at that time operated the hotel at Bawlf. At that time, Bawlf was the nearest town, and there were no railroads. Bawlf was thirty miles away and we had no cars. If you were lucky, you had a team of horses; some people drove with oxen.

When we arrived in Canada, we had \$100.00, and with this we bought five cows at \$20.00 each.

We got permission to chop down (by hand) enough poplar trees to build a house. Later, we bought another horse. Cattle thieves were active in those days and we were unlucky enough to lose two of our cows in this way. This made it necessary for my husband to trade his good coat, which he brought from Norway, for another cow. We borrowed a plow and another horse from a neighbour, in order to get our field work done.

Again disaster struck! Work was done very early in the morning and later on in the day to avoid the intense heat and the mosquitoes. On one such day, I helped to unharness the horses and build a mosquito smudge (a small fire built to smoke a lot). The horses were tied in the barn, which was built from poplar poles and straw. They were fed and watered and we went in for our noon meal. We always rested for a while as we had been at work since 4:00 A.M. My husband fell asleep at once, but I woke up when I heard a horse cough. I got up and saw the barn in flames. A whirlwind had blown a spark from the

smudge onto the barn. I woke Carl and he grabbed an axe and ran into the barn to try to free the horses, but three of them were already down. He tried to rescue the fourth but couldn't. I screamed that the roof was falling and he just made it out in time. We lost four horses (one was borrowed), two calves, chickens and some wheat. We sold our cows to pay for the horse that we had borrowed. Now we were once again empty-handed. Had we had the money, we would have gladly returned to Norway, but we had no choice but to begin once more.

Water was difficult to find in the dry hardpan country. We dug twelve wells. Some were dug by hand and were twenty feet deep. One was dug by machine and fifty-eight feet deep, but we still had no water. We hauled water for the house and for the cattle. After we lost our horses in the fire, our neighbours got together and gave us one horse so we could haul water. This was done by stoneboat — a sled made from two flattened logs for runners, with rails nailed across for a platform.

After the fire, Carl had to work out for other farmers in order to eek out a bare living. This meant that I was alone all week. Each night before I went to bed, I would walk up to the highest hill to see if there were any fires in sight. In those days, prairie fires could race across grasslands faster than any horses could run. We arranged with a neighbour to have cows "on share" and I had to milk them morning and night. It was most difficult to get them at night, as they were at liberty to wander all over the prairies. My daughter Olava (Mrs. William Schiele) became very tired and I often had to carry her. We had built



Carl Arneberg and the homestead shack, taken in 1924.

another make-shift barn. One time, I had just tended the cows in early fall when a snow storm hit. In fact, it was a blizzard. When I came into the house, I noticed that all the tar paper had blown off the roof. I had very little firewood inside and I didn't dare go out for more. I used what little wood I had to make

supper. Then I found all the bedding I could find and we went to bed. I prayed God that He would send someone before we froze to death. God answers prayer! My husband became concerned about our welfare. He borrowed a horse and came on horseback through the storm. He fixed the roof and got firewood for us. Again, tragedy was averted.

Now I think that I will invite you into my little settler's house, and acquaint you with the "olden days". The house was fourteen feet by twenty feet. The floor was made from hand-hewn poplar rails which eventually were scrubbed smooth and white. The walls were chinked with mud between the poplar rails and papered over with building paper. There were two windows, one on each opposite wall. Furniture was composed of one "store-bought" bed with a straw mattress, a home-made straw mattress, a home-made table with wings on the sides so we could accommodate visitors, and two home-made benches. I made a sofa out of a big box which I upholstered with cloth. All my cupboards were made from apple boxes. We had a small stove and that was the sum total of our furniture for seven years. But when we got company, it didn't take long to cook coffee.

Whenever we saw a wagon with a mosquito smudge in it we knew that we could expect company. We held services in the homes. The parishioners sat on the floor while the preacher hardly had enough room to stand in the middle. But we were all in the same boat those days, and we looked forward to better days. Oats sold for twenty cents a bushel, wheat for thirty cents a bushel. Usually it took three days to go to town (Wetaskiwin), one day to get there, one day shopping, and one day to get home.

In 1914, World War I broke out and prices began to rise. By this time, the railway was also being built. On March 25, 1914 we bought a quarter section of land eight miles north east of Meeting Creek in the Ferry Point district. (Our second daughter, Clara, was born in June.) In 1919, we sold wheat for \$3.50 a bushel and oats for \$1.10. We bought two more



Carl Arneberg and his nephew Chris breaking up pasture land.

quarters of land here. We were kept very busy brushing and breaking up the new land. We built a new house in 1918 and a new barn in 1923. My husband never thought of sparing himself and when he had built up his home he didn't live long to enjoy it. My husband was ill for two years and died when he was only fifty-three years old in 1933. I was left to run the farm. My youngest daughter was then nineteen years old. My oldest daughter was married in 1924 and lived in a farm four miles from home. In 1934, I rented the farm out to Mr. and Mrs. Chris Wold and Sons. I had an auction sale in the fall and bought a house in Camrose. (She lived there until her death in July, 1958).

In 1951, I took a trip back to Norway. It was forty-nine years since I left. It was thrilling to come back and renew old acquaintances with relatives and friends. I found that times were good in Norway. Many asked me if they would do better in "America" — to which I replied — "you have America right here". No one finds gold on the streets anywhere, and we all have to work for what we get. Nevertheless, I like it here and would not trade with anyone.

The children of Carl and Kari Arneberg are still living. They are; Mrs. William Schiele (Olava), of Penticton, B.C., and Mrs. Earl Beyerstein (Clara), of Vernon, B.C.

Arneberg, (Schielle) Olava

Olava's Memories

Mother said it was a hard and long trip from Norway with a young child. We were met at Ole's homestead by his mother. We lived with them for a time. Later, we moved to a house on Ben Benson's homestead. Dad walked to Stettler from Haugen's to file claim on a homestead five miles north-east of Donalda, called the "hard pan".

Dad cut poplar logs at Spruce Coulee to build a one-room cabin, 14x20 feet. The roof was poplar boards with sod. When it rained hard and long, the roof would leak, so dad would hang binder canvas over the bed to keep it dry. Mother would put food under the oil cloth-covered table to keep things dry. Later, the roof was replaced with shingles.

The house was heated by wood in the cook stove, with the oven door open. By morning your bread and water pail would be frozen hard.

Iver Borge Sons' store was about two miles away, with groceries consisting mostly of coffee, sugar, salt, butter paper and oatmeal. In those days there was real trading — goods for produce. We did not have all these fancy boxed cereals and meats on the shelves.

Once mother was taking some grain to be ground at the Ferry Point mill. She saw Ella Erikson coming from the west on the river flat. Ella had her horses on the run trying to get to the bridge first and get to the mill. Mother got her team on the run too, and reached the bridge first and she was able to take a short cut to the mill.

Dad and mother were members of the Sharon Lutheran Church, and mother was a member of the Ladies Aid.

One June, mother was having the Ladies Aid. It was nice and warm. Dad helped mother build a shelter from tree branches and made some benches, so they could be outside, as the house could not accommodate all the people. Next morning, there was a snow storm and only three ladies came. They were glad to be inside, close to the stove!

Our door was never locked. If a hungry traveller came by and we were not home, he could cook some coffee and have something to eat — whatever mother had on hand. The traveller would leave a small donation for the hospitality.

One day a rancher from across the river close to Kelsey, rode to our place. He asked mother if he could get a lunch. Mother said he could. She had just churned and had cooked "prim" (a cheese) from the buttermilk and she had nice fresh bread. She put some "prim" on a saucer. He sat up to the table, took the prim dish, put rich cream and sugar on it, and ate it. He must have thought it was a pudding. I am sure he never had a pudding like it before or after.

There was no Donalda at that time. I can remember dad, mother, and I drove in a wagon to see the railroad being laid. There was no bridge over the creek, so one just drove through the creek. Dad worked on the north hill with a team of horses and a hand scraper (a bucket). Farmers would work out their land taxes.

Olava attended one school term at Ibsen school, before moving to the Ferry Point district.

Elmer A. and Bertha Belle Bailey

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Bailey and their four sons, Frank, Butler, Russell and Lawrence, came to Donalda arriving in March of 1912. They came from Sheffield, Iowa, arriving by train and shipping their belongings in three railway cars.

They moved out to the Casper Hendel homestead located on Sec. 32-42-18-W4M. They lived there while they built buildings and broke land on their own section, located Sec. 21-42-18-4, which had been bought the previous year. After arriving at the Hendel place, Butler became seriously ill with typhoid fever, perhaps from something on the trip. It



Bailey's arrival at Hendel Place.



Elmer A. Bailey, when he drove the school van to Donalda.



Russell Bailey and his old Ford.

was a difficult time, living in a small dwelling with none of the conveniences they had been used to in their large home in the United States. Doctor Bond, from the village of Donalda, came almost every day to take care of Butler. At first he rode a horse and later he got a buggy and drove the single horse.

Elmer Bailey drove the school van for many years, picking up pupils for the Donalda school. At first he used mules and later horses. They moved back to the States at different times, but always came back to the farm at Donalda. Mrs. Bailey raised

chickens, guinea hens, and had lovely gardens. She did much hand work, making quilts, rugs, etc. Elmer and Bertha retired to the village of Donalda and the boys continued to farm. Butler married Helen Johnson in 1917. Lawrence passed away in 1931 from appendicitis. Frank passed away in 1956.

Russell continued to farm the home place which he sold in the sixties to Ole Erickson, and retired to the village of Donalda where he still lives. Russell had a truck hauling business for several years.

Elmer Bailey passed away in 1949 and Bertha Belle passed away in 1961.

Butler A. and Helen P. Bailey

Butler married Helen Johnson on January 18, 1917. They moved to Iowa for a time, then back to Donalda where Butler farmed, and later moving to Washington. Times were hard, and work was scarce. They moved back to Donalda where Butler worked at many jobs in Alberta and British Columbia driving horses on construction and later "cats". Helen was an excellent cook, so her skills were put to use, cooking in lumber camps in British Columbia. They bought the Stener Hilde farm where they lived until they sold it to their son and retired to the village of Donalda.

Two children were born to Helen and Butler; Orville who still lives at Donalda, and Euma Lorraine who became an Airline Stewardess working for



The Bailey Family. Ella, Orville, Butler Helen, Doug, Joan, Jim, Kristine, Trudy. In front — Kelly and Colin.



Butler Bailey and Helmar Johnson.

Alaska Airlines. Euma now lives in Seattle and has one daughter, Mara Lee.

Butler and Helen celebrated their fiftieth anniversary while they were still farming and celebrated their sixty-second anniversary after retiring. Butler and Helen are still very active. They have one of the largest gardens in Donalda and area — without a single weed. Helen keeps busy with her housework, quilts, rugs and handwork. Butler is still a top fisherman.

Poem Read at Butler and Helen Bailey's 60th Anniversary

Butler and Helen in January wed.

Her name went from Johnson to Bailey instead.

They made their first home in the Ibsen zone,

A few years later made the U.S. their home.

In the following years, son Orville was born

In the Iowa state, ate lots of corn.

Much water under the bridge it did flow,

They packed up their bags and to Donalda did go,

Until hard times hit, and sent them scurrying back.

Wenatchee had apples, they sure picked a pack.

Orville went to the river with bread dough for bait,

Caught a nice mess of fish, my how they ate.

The thirties were hungry and things sure looked rough.

They came back to Alberta where things weren't so tough.

The years went by, how quickly they pass,

Soon Euma was born — what a beautiful lass.

They worked hard at farming, cat driving and cooking

Bought the Hilde farm, things better were looking.

Orville became a handsome young man.

To make a fortune in furs was his immediate plan

"I'll catch me a mink", was the plan in his head

But believe it or not, he caught a MARTIN instead.

After a chain of events, the family grew

To Douglas and Jim and Jim Murphy too.

In 1960, one fine June morn

Their first Grand-daughter, Mara Lee was born,

They bought a nice house and retired to town

With a beautiful garden, you can't keep them down.

Butler goes down to the pond to fish.

Sure hope he gets lots, cause that is his wish.

By now Jim and Doug have married Trudy and Joan.

Bill Baker and Euma call Seattle their home.

Now, there's Colin, a boy, and Kelly, a young lady.

On their special day, there came a new baby

January 18, nineteen seventy-seven

A little bundle came down from heaven.

In sixty years, something different was seen.

In a truck ride to Bashaw

Along came Kristine.

Sister Anna has lots of descendants to date,

But Helen can only claim a mere eight.

After sixty short years

They're still looking swell.

From all of us here

We wish you both well.

Orville and Ella Bailey

Orville was born in Iowa, U.S.A. He moved to Donalda with his parents, Butler and Helen Bailey, at a young age. He took his schooling in Washington, U.S.A., Glen Park, Ibsen and Donalda High School. He later took Heavy Duty Mechanics at the Chicago Vocational School in Edmonton. Orville served in the United States army during the Second World War.

Orville married Ella Martin of the Glen Park district, daughter of August and Tena Martin. Two sons were born to them, Douglas and James. After Orville received his discharge from the army, he and his wife moved to Crescent Spur, B.C. Orville



Jim, Orville, Ella, and Doug Bailey.



Jim and Trudy Bailey, Colin and Kristine.



Doug, Joan and Kelly Bailey.

worked there until 1951 when they moved back to Donalda. At that time Orville started his own construction business called O. L. Bailey Construction. Ella started working in the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in 1961 and is presently the manager of the Donalda branch.

Douglas and Jim married sisters. Doug married Joan Shoemaker, they have one daughter Kelly and live in the village of Donalda. Jim married Trudy Shoemaker, they have two children, Colin and Kristine. They live on the farm SW 20-42-18-W4. Both Doug and Jim work with Orville.

My Pioneer Parents — Alfred and Cecelia Berg

by Amy Berg Kops

My father came from North Dakota to the Ibsen district in 1903. He had a team of oxen, a wagon, and a wagonload of supplies. He had immigrated to the United States some time in the early 1890's and had worked in the woods in Minnesota and on farms in North and South Dakota.

After five years in the United States he went back to Sweden to visit his parents. When he returned, he brought one of his sisters, Hilda, with him. She was a pretty girl, and while they were on the boat, a young Irishman fell in love with her. He tried to court her through my father since he couldn't speak to her, but without success. Later, in North Dakota, she became Mrs. Tom Vikse, and also came to the Ibsen district.

My father was still unmarried when he came to Alberta. These are some of the things I remember hearing about concerning his bachelor days. His log house was always cold on winter mornings since the wood fire went out. On one of his trips to the north-east coulee to get logs, he found some coal, brought it home, "banked" his fire, and got up to a fairly warm room. I am sure everyone has heard of the terrible winter of 1906-07. The oxen would lie down in the deep snow and refuse to move, so my father had to get off his load of hay and tramp a trail for them. Once he developed blood poisoning in his middle finger and it took two days to drive to the doctor. That finger remained stiff the rest of his life.

I have heard that my father had a biscuit recipe



Oscar Pearson, Albin Hoffman, Knute Collin, Mrs. Berg, Alfred Berg, Amy Berg.

which apparently gave the teeth and gums plenty of exercise. However, his bachelor friends did not complain. Once he had left some specially hard specimens on the shelf and came home to find them gone. He suspected who had eaten them because this fellow had a reputation for being able to eat anything and everything.

My father got tired of the “batching” and girls were scarce in the neighbourhood, so he went to Sweden and came back with a wife in 1911. My mother had been a cook in Sweden and the bachelors must have found out because it seemed to me that there were always some who came for a meal on Sundays; of course, I used to wish that we had had family visitors with children. Sometimes my mother cooked for weddings and silver weddings and she decorated many wedding cakes.

When my mother first came, the coyotes were very bold and the chickens kept disappearing. She strung a set of bells through the trees behind the house and yanked the string frequently during the day to entertain the coyotes. Apparently it helped.

We lived on the homestead until 1919. My father was always interested in trees and new varieties of grain. He ordered trees from the government station at Indian Head, Saskatchewan. The trees were free. He introduced new varieties of grain, especially after he bought the Stolee place in 1919. I am not sure what these varieties were, but can remember references to a wheat called Red Bob and a beardless barley.

My father passed away in 1933 and my mother in 1941.

I attended Ibsen school with my cousins, the Vikses and our neighbors, the Broughtons. I suppose the conditions at the school were not easy for the teachers. Some of us had to learn English, and we were quite numerous and definitely no angels. Most of the teachers were young and inexperienced so they did not stay very long. I was fortunate to get some of my education from Agnes (Stolee) Kerr.

Further education was obtained at Donalda Consolidated School, Camrose Normal school, and later at the University of Alberta.

As far as teaching in country schools goes, I can say that the majority of the children were pleasant to get along with; but I do not remember with pleasure some of the boarding places — such as the one where I had to stumble over a snowbank inside the doorless outhouse, or the one where turnips were served at least six days a week, or the one where the woman could not bake a decent loaf of bread.

However, I survived and decided to give up teaching for a while. I worked in an office in Edmon-

ton for a time and then joined the Canadian Women's Army Corps in 1943. I was discharged in March, 1946, and on the following day got a job teaching at the school for veterans in Toronto. Since the students were expected to do ten months high school work in four months, no one had any time to waste. I really enjoyed the work and received one of the nicest compliments in my career when a departing student came to tell me he was going on to Normal School and hoped he could become as good a teacher as I.

This job was finished in June, 1947, and I returned to Edmonton and went to University. In 1949 I was accepted on the staff of the Edmonton Public School Board where I spent one year in a Junior High School and then was moved to a senior high school which was what I always wanted.

I was married in 1952, and helped my husband start a dry cleaning business in 1953. We both worked very hard and I continued teaching as well as helping him quite often on weekends. In 1972 we left Edmonton and moved to Burnaby, British Columbia.

Frank Blady

Frank came to Canada from Poland after World War I. He moved from his land along the Battle River to the farm located at 35-42-18 in the early 1940's. Frank was keenly interested in cattle and had approximately two hundred and fifty head.

During the 1940's Frank would buy large quantities of clothes and quilts. These he would box and send to his family and friends still in Poland.

He retired to Donalda in 1965 after renting out his land. Due to his Polish background, he had a limited command of the English language. However, over the years his neighbours got to understand him well. Frank died at the age of seventy, June 26, 1971.

Albert Batke Family

Albert and Ella Batke and family came to the Murdock farm west of Donalda in 1917. While here, Mr. Batke drove the horse drawn school van. In 1920 the family moved to Donalda and for twelve years, Albert was Donalda's rural route carrier, 1918 - 1929. His wife Ella would drive the route when her husband was busy in the fields.

Their farm in the Ibsen district remained in the family for a number of years until their son Irvin sold out and went into the grocery store business for a brief period.

Albert and Ella have passed on but their family members live on — Edna Thebeau of Ponoka, Earl at Sexsmith, Roy at Shaunese Hospital, Vancouver, Irvin at Rimbey, Irene Cox at Camrose

and Gladys Ramstad at Lacombe. Irene's husband's grandparents were the Nichols at Ibsen. Roy and Earl were both in the services during World War Two.

Ole Broughton

Ole and Anna arrived in Donalda to homestead in 1906. Their first home of logs with sod roof was situated approximately eight miles north-east of Donalda on the "hard-pan".

The sale of eggs and butter provided income for grocery purchases and Mrs. Broughton, an exceptionally fine seamstress, did much of the sewing for the family.

Mr. Broughton and his cousin, Ole Broughton from Osakis, Minnesota, built a side cutting brusher, and did custom breaking and brushing for the neighbors.



Mr. and Mrs. Ole Broughton after their retirement.

Ole and Anna worked diligently and faithfully, not only on the homestead, but in community affairs. They were charter members of Sharon Lutheran Church in Donalda, and later became members of Bethany Lutheran Church where Mr. Broughton taught Sunday School and Bible Classes, served as a lay-preacher and spent many hours encouraging the young people of the area to participate in youth and choir groups. Mr. Broughton was Secretary-Treasurer of the Ibsen School district, Secretary-Treasurer of the Municipal District of Haig #396, and took great interest in the various activities of the community.

Mrs. Broughton was active in Ladies Aid work; she often shared her lovely soprano voice in singing her Lord's praises, and in her quiet, unassuming way, was a friend to all who knew her.

Their four children were all born in the Donalda district. One child died in infancy.



Laurence, Ernest and Alice Broughton. Taken in 1915 at their homestead.

The eldest son of the Ole Broughton's, Laurence, acquired a University education and became a teacher as well as a Principal. He married a school teacher, Sibylle Lefsrud, of Viking in 1933. In 1943 he was appointed a Superintendent of Schools, serving at Lac La Biche, High Prairie and Cardston. In 1953 he was appointed Superintendent of the Alberta School for the Deaf, a post he held until his death in March, 1967. Laurence and Sibylle had five daughters (one twin died at birth) and there are now eleven grandchildren.

Their oldest daughter Inez Margaret (Peggy) is a Registered Nurse. She married Jakob Mollerup, (deceased in 1965) and had two sons, Douglas and Laurence. She is presently Program Coordinator for the three Good Samaritan Nursing Homes in Edmonton and Stony Plain and is Director of Nursing for one of these.

Marianne is also a Registered Nurse with Psychiatric training as well. She married Keith Bergum and with their three children, Keith Jr., Jody and Kimberly, live at Weyburn, Saskatchewan where they operate an Esso Service Station and Voyageur Restaurant.

Laurelle took Business Education and became a Clerk-Steno. She is married to Delmer Skaret and resides in Edmonton with their three children, Kevin, Wayne, and Karen. Delmer teaches school and Laurelle works part-time for the Bay.

The youngest daughter, Beverly, is a Pharmacist. She married Stanley Lokseth. They live in Peace River with their three children, Marnie, Erik, and Kirsten. Stanley has a heavy-equipment Sales Service at Nampa.

Ole Broughton's second son, Ernest, farmed with his father on the homestead at Donaldda and for a time after they moved to Edberg in 1931. He married Evelyn Erickson of Bawlf in 1936 and farmed at Edberg until they moved to a farm near Camrose. In 1948 they moved to Grande Prairie, where Ernest did some stuccoing and later, welding. He then became manager of the Credit Union and lastly worked for UFA Bulk Oils. Evelyn efficiently managed the Co-op Coffee Shop for many years. Both are now enjoying their retirement.

Ernest is active in the Co-op movement, and in Trinity Lutheran Church, where he still sings tenor in the choir and where Evelyn has been organist for thirty years. They have five daughters, all married and living in the Peace River Country. Ernie and Evelyn boast thirteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Their oldest granddaughter passed away at the tender age of six from a brain hemorrhage.

Their oldest daughter, Ardith, attended Camrose Lutheran College. She married Joe Yakimuk and they have had three children, Nina (now deceased), Randy, and Ricky. They are presently living in Grande Prairie. Ardith works for the Co-op Bakery and Joe is with United Grain Growers.

Lorraine also attended Camrose College. She married Philip Hotton. They have two children, Candice and Gary, and one grandchild, Ryan. They farm at Clairmont and Lorraine is General Clerk-Typist for Canadian Freightways at Grande Prairie.

Kay married Allan Robideau. They live at Peace River where Allan owns North Peace Refrigeration and Kay is Receptionist at the Peace River Hospital. They have five children, Cheryl, Deanna, Gordon, Nancy and Laurence, and one grandchild Stacey.

Mavis took a business Education course. She married Jack Bogstie and with their two children, Sandra and David, live at High Level where Jack has an Industrial and Welding Supply business. Mavis is instructing Adult Education courses in Business.

Janice also took Business Education. She married Brian Peebles and with their sons Michael and Shaun live at High Level where Brian works with

Jack Bogstie. Janice is Receptionist at the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife office.

Ole and Anna Broughton's only daughter, Alice, attended Camrose College and Camrose Normal School to become a teacher. She taught rural schools near Athabasca, Colinton and Tofield before moving to Wetaskiwin in 1948. Here she taught Grade One for many years, held the position of Principal of an Elementary school and later became Co-ordinator of Elementary Education at Wetaskiwin. She is presently enjoying retirement there, where she is a faithful and active member of the Lutheran Church. She spends many hours choir directing and singing, is on the church council and like her mother, is a friend to all who know her.

In the early days on the "hard-pan", the nearest doctor was in Daysland or Camrose. Dr. Nordbye of Camrose travelled by horse and buggy and later by car, to tend to family illnesses.



Long, long, ago. Mr. and Mrs. Ole Broughton, Alice, Laurence and Ernest. Taken in 1918 at their homestead.

Mr. Broughton went to Bawlf (on foot on more than one occasion) to buy grocery supplies.

The children attended school at Ibsen, walking or riding horseback in the summer, and by sleigh in winter.

Prairie fires were a threat on many occasions, but like all hardy pioneers, our family came through these disasters.

Ole lived with Alice in Wetaskiwin after the passing away of his wife in 1950. Ole passed away in 1954.

In tribute to Ole and Anna Broughton it can be said that both made worthwhile contributions to the pioneer community.

Ole had a particular interest in young people and sought in many ways to direct them into worthwhile

endeavors and to inspire them toward high goals. Not having had the privilege of advanced education himself, he gave full support to the establishment of Camrose Lutheran College. When opportunities came to address graduation classes at the College or at other young people's gatherings, his messages were clear, precise and challenging.

Anna, in her quiet, gentle manner gave encouragement and comfort to all whom she met, kinfolk or friend. She touched the hearts of many with her pleasing soprano voice. She took an active part in both the Bethany and Sharon Ladies' Aid groups.

Cook Family

Joe and Ruth Cook arrived in Donalda in the fall of 1920, with their two children, Dorothy and Jack. They moved to the Ibsen District, having bought the Charlie Layher farm.

Joe Cook was a veteran of World War I and lived on a farm purchased through the Soldiers Settlement Board, as did his close neighbors to the east, the Colonel Clifford and Webb families.

Every one at this time travelled by horse and wagon or buggy. Money was very scarce and clothes were mended and remended.



The Joe Cook family on their way to town. Mr. Cook and Jack in the buggy. Mrs. Cook and Dorothy standing.

Ibsen, like all country schools, was equipped with double desks and heated with a station master stove. Older boys received ten cents per day to light the fires and keep supplies of wood and coal in the room.

In the 1920's the Agricultural Society gave garden seeds and setting eggs to the students. Jack had about 50 setting eggs and raised chickens. They laid eggs all winter. When spring came, he wanted very much to own a car. Emil Vikse had one to sell, so he traded forty hens for his 490-Chev — 1917 vintage. Jack was quite proud of his car.

Colonel Clifford moved from Calgary to the Sig Broughton place east of Ibsen. He had shipped in a carload of horses. The first night there, the horses



Sawing Wood: Colonel Clifford, Joe Cook, Jack Cook, Dick Clifford.

were locked in the yard. Someone opened the gate, and they were missing in the morning.

The Colonel was wise to what happened. Whoever had run the horses off were likely waiting for him to post a reward, which he would not do. He never did get all the horses back. He lost two beautiful riding horses. Later, it was found out they had been held in the coulees north of Donalda.

In 1939, Jack married Eleanor Grant, who came to teach at Ibsen. They have three children: Bob at Red Deer, Linda (Mrs. Richard Bennett) at London, Ontario, and Grant in Edmonton.

Joe and Ruth moved to Kelowna where they passed away. Jack farmed until 1974 when he moved to Red Deer. Dorothy (Mrs. Jack Harris lives in Camrose) as well as her two sons, Gerrie and Dennis Dey.

James Goodkey

Irene and James Goodkey purchased the Oscar Jacobson farm in 1976 after selling their farm at Gadsby. The Goodkeys moved into the Jacobson homestead house and lived in this building from April 1976 to January 1977 when they moved into their new house.

Irene was born in Saskatchewan but came to Alberta to live while still a baby. Prior to her marriage, she worked at the Islay Hospital for almost nine years, and twelve years at Woodward's in Edmonton.

James was born and grew up in the Gadsby area and has farmed all his life except for a brief period when he worked for his brothers in Edmonton. While in Edmonton, he met and married Irene Simmons who became his wife in 1955. They lived on their farm in Gadsby area after their marriage until 1976 when they moved to Donalda.

The Stener A. Hilde Story

Stener A. Hilde was fifteen years of age when he emigrated from Norway with his parents, two



Stener and Gertrude Hilde.

brothers and one sister. Two older brothers had come to America earlier. They first settled in the Lyle, Minnesota area. Later he and his brothers and sister all took homesteads southwest of Selby, South Dakota. He married Gertrude Marie Johnson on April 16, 1890. There they farmed. The prairies were hot and dry. Grasshoppers damaged crops. Relatives and friends had gone to Alberta, Canada. Reports came back that homestead land was available. Dad and neighbors got the urge to go. The spring of 1902 in company with the Peter Olufson family, Mother, Dad and the four children boarded a mixed train. The families lived in the passenger coach and the men tended the stock in the stock cars.

They came to Wetaskiwin and camped there for a week — a week of much rain — while Dad was gone looking for land for a homestead. Impatient little Alfred said to Mother, "Let's go home," and Mother replied, "We have no home." Dad returned and they proceeded on in the wagon to the Norbo District. Albert rode a horse to help herd the cattle along the way.

Dad filed on a homestead three miles north of Donalda. They lived in a part sod and log house at Ole Haugen's until our log house was built with only a sod and tar paper roof the first year. That year was a rainy season and words cannot describe what the folks went through. The horses died from swamp fever. Then Dad went and worked for Hans Ellefson for fifty cents a day. There he made enough to buy a

small team of horses. Then he got a few acres broke using a walking plow. When the rich black furrows were turned over Dad said, "Ja, dette er godt land" (Yes, this is good land). Between times Dad was cutting logs and when Lars Hagen got a saw mill in Spruce Coulee, Dad got logs sawed into lumber for our new house.

The first threshing we had done was by horse power. It was owned by Lars Hagen also. Our closest neighbors were Ole Stanviks, Ole Jacobsons and Eilert Knudtsens. The neighbors kept in touch with one another and when the measles and whooping cough made the rounds many a pail of milk was brought. It was supposedly skimmed but I declare it was half cream.

Our first country store was owned by Hans Ellefson. Church services were held in the Norbo School. Albert was confirmed there.

Albert had a horse named Nigger. He had quite an experience rounding up our cattle in the Meeting Creek coulee when his horse was gored by an angry cow and killed. The cattle in the early days had very long horns and seemed wild.

The folks worked hard. Mother liked to relax after the children were in bed, and in order that Dad could get his sleep, she blew out the light, took her knitting, went out, and in the moonlight sat knitting socks and mittens for us.

In 1908, we moved into the new house. In 1910, Ibsen School was opened, with Jorgena Hendrickson as our first teacher. From now on things began to flourish. More settlers came, more brushing was done, more land was broken up for farming. Dad bought another quarter of land to the west. The folks never regretted their coming to Alberta, even though there were many hazards and disappointments. Mosquitoes, flies, cold winters with lots of snow, hail storms, prairie fires — many a night Dad had to go and back fire around hay stacks.

But most of all, for us as a family, memories of life on the homestead near Donalda are happy ones. There was the joy of being part of a large family. There was work and there was play. There was music and there was laughter. There was pain and there were tears. There was love and acceptance. And beyond home there were the happy experiences of life in school, church and community. The memories will always be precious.

Twelve children were born to Stener and Gertrude Hilde. Alma, the third child, died in infancy. She is buried near Selby, South Dakota.

Albert C. Hilde was born June 7, 1892. He married Clara McLeod January 6, 1926. He operated a garage in Donalda. Later they moved to Prince

George, B.C. Two boys were born to them, Ronald and William (Bill). Both became private airplane pilots. Ronald operates a car rental service at Prince George, B.C., and Bill is an airplane mechanic in Abbotsford, B.C. There are four grandchildren. Albert passed away October 14, 1955. Clara passed away in 1978.



Stener Hilde Homestead — the original log house.

Mabel Regina Hilde was born June 17, 1894. She dedicated her life to the whole family and was like a second mother to most. She makes her home at the Bethany Nursing Home in Camrose, Alberta.

Alfred Joseph Hilde was born April 30, 1898 at Selby, South Dakota. He was married February 27, 1932 at Los Angeles, California to Lillian Osterloh. He was four years of age when he came with his parents to Alberta, Canada. In 1925 he attended Barber College, Edmonton, Alberta. He barbered in Vermillion, Alberta, until 1927 when he returned to the United States, establishing residence in Los Angeles, California. He operated his own barber shops in Los Angeles and Hollywood until 1950, when he moved to Upland, California, and operated shops in Pomona and Claremont until his retirement in 1964. In 1967 he established residence in Foothill Village Blvd., Pomona, California, residing there until his death.

Alfred played the violin and as a young man growing up, his ambition was to become a concert violinist.

Sophie Emelia (Hilde) Shaw was born September 22, 1900 at Selby, South Dakota. In 1918 she married Allan Shaw of Forestburg, Alberta. There they farmed jointly with his father for a number of years. To this union two daughters were born, Ruby and Lois. Both were baptized in the Pleasington Lutheran Church. Sophie and Allan farmed near Galahad for a number of years. They then bought a farm north-east of Alliance where they lived and con-

tinued farming until they retired in 1964, moving to Camrose. Allan passed away in 1976.

Their eldest daughter, Ruby, married Andrew Keehn of Galahad. They farmed near Forestburg for a number of years, later moving to Camrose. Ruby had a love for music and most of her life has played the piano in orchestras and for various organizations. Ruby and Andy have two children, Larry and Ardis. Larry married Billie Quigg of High Vale. Larry is Meat Manager for Safeway at Spruce Grove, and owns an acreage there. They have one son, Tyler. Ardis married Dennis Busch of Forestburg. He is a mechanic and co-owner of Forestburg Motors. They have three children, Stuart, Paula and Gregory.

Allan and Sophie's youngest daughter Lois married Everton Emberley of Stoney Creek, Ontario, and lived in Leduc. He was Air Traffic Controller at the International Airport. They have six children, Luanne, Daryl, Grant, Catherine, Mark and Scott. Luanne married Howard McKay of Leduc. They live in Drayton Valley where he is a music teacher in the Elementary School. Daryl married Elaine Borys of Calmar. They own Emberley Cylinder Head Service in Edmonton, and live at New Sarepta. Grant married Connie Shave of Leduc and is employed with WKM Valves, Edmonton. They live in Millet. Catherine works as a secretary in Edmonton. Mark is an apprentice mechanic and works and lives in Leduc. Scott attends school. Everton, Lois and Scott spent six months living and working in Tanzania, East Africa in 1979.

Geyhard Hilde was born January 15, 1903 in the original log house on the Hilde homestead. He attended school at Ibsen and in Donalda. In the early twenties he studied barbering in Edmonton, working in Edmonton, Camrose, Wetaskiwin, and Saskatoon, and operating a barber and billiard business in Donalda. Being very musical and having studied the violin he played in orchestras in the silent movie theatres in various places he worked and also in dance orchestras. In 1934, he met and married Marie Riecken of Saskatoon. They settled in Edmonton and jointly operated Barber and Hairdressing salons for some years. In later years he worked in advertising for the Edmonton Journal. Upon retirement they moved to Camrose in 1977. He passed away November 19, 1978, and is buried in the family plot at Bethany Church, Donalda.

Peter W. Hilde was born December 30, 1904. He worked for Swift's Packing Plant in Edmonton for twenty years until his death December 19, 1964. He is buried in the family plot at Bethany Lutheran Church, Donalda.

Selmer O. Hilde was born February 1, 1907. He

attended Donaldda High School, and he graduated from Camrose Lutheran College, Augsburg College and Seminary in Minneapolis, The Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis, and Luther Seminary in St. Paul. He married Ina J. Jeglum of Fairdale, North Dakota, August 12, 1930. They have five married children. Paul married Wanda Glenn. They have five children: Glenn, Paul Jr., Crystal, Aaron and Leah. Paul was in the U.S. Air Force for 21 years and now works in the Bemidji Post Office. James married Betty Peterson and is a pastor at Enderlin, North Dakota. They have a daughter, Alisa Beth. Roger is married to Dawn Olson. They live at Stillwater, Minnesota. Roger works at Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company. They have two boys, Jason and Mark. Catherine is married to Neal Anderson. They have a girl named Sarah and a boy named Eric. Neal teaches Jr. High math. They live in St. Paul, Minnesota. Sharon is married to John Dibbern. They have a girl and a boy, Kristan and Douglas. John is a teacher in American History at Arizona State University. They live at Tempe, Arizona.

Selmer has served as a Lutheran Pastor at New Norway, Alberta; Walhalla, Michigan; Grand Forks, North Dakota; and Stillwater, Minnesota; and Interim and part-time associate at Calvary Lutheran, Bemidji, Minnesota, where they now live in retirement.

Clara Ruth (Hilde) Wutke was born December 20, 1908 in the new house on the Hilde farm. She attended school in Donaldda and at Camrose College and took some nurses training at Camrose. She went to the United States in 1929. She married Edwin Gustaf Wutke. They jointly owned and operated a confectionery bakery in Pasadena, California, where they specialized in decorated cakes. They sold the bakery in 1960. Since then, Edwin has been working in the Filbert Theatre Supply Co. They have one daughter, Helen Arlene. She was born in Donaldda, Alberta on the Hilde Farm in 1931. She graduated from the University of Southern California in 1954 with a bachelor of science degree in nursing, and had worked the past twenty-two years as a school nurse. She became a pediatric nurse practitioner in 1974. She married Fulton E. Britt. He is a real estate negotiator for Litton Ind. and is in the corporate office in Beverly Hills. They have three children: Karen Diane, Stephen Andrew and Holly Marie — all residing in Diamond Bar, California. Karen recently received her bachelor of science degree in math and graduated Magna Cum Laude. She is employed as a systems analyst or junior engineer for Honeywell Industries, Covina, California.

Andrew John Hilde was born April 12, 1911 at

Norbo, Alberta. He attended school at Ibsen and Donaldda and was baptized at Norbo by Rev. Klyve.

He went to Loos, B.C. in 1933, where he met and married Dorothy Mildred Leboe, June 26, 1936. To this union were born Kathleen, Kenneth, H. Raynor and Sharon.

Andrew worked at various occupations such as steam engineer, millwright, sawyer, planerman for Leboe Lumber Co., at Crescent Spur, B.C. for twenty years. He moved to Kelowna, B.C. and worked as a steam engineer for Sun-Rype Products for six years. He moved to Kamloops, B.C., and was employed by B.C. Government at Tranquille Institute transferring to Dellevieu Hospital at Vernon, B.C. where he continued to be employed as a steam engineer, retiring in 1976.

Kathleen graduated from Bible School in 1957 and Nurses Training in 1960. She married Karl Janzen May 18, 1963 and served for several years on staff of Prairie Bible Institute at Three Hills, Alberta, where Karl was Dean of Men and Kathleen taught First Aid and piano.

They moved to Victoria, B.C. where Karl served as assistant Pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church. From there, they went as missionaries to Brazil, South America where they presently reside. Their children are Diane, Douglas and Sandra.

Kenneth married Julie Sargeant August 3, 1963. They reside at Prince George, B.C. and he is employed in the lumber industry. Their children are: Lana, Dorothy and Sonia.

H. Raynor married Judi Nordstrom, July 7, 1962. They reside at Fort St. James, B.C. and he is employed in the lumber industry. Their children are: Craig, Warren and Jason.

Sharon married Ed Davis August 15, 1964. They live at Williams Lake, B.C. They have one son, Dwayne.

Dorothy passed away January 29, 1962. Andrew remarried August 11, 1967, to Caroline Elvina (Anderson) Johnson. They reside at Vernon, B.C.

Esther Ingeborg (Hilde) Johnson was born July 1, 1914 at Donaldda, Alberta. She attended school at Ibsen and Donaldda and was baptized and confirmed in the Bethany Church.

On September 1, 1935 she was united in marriage to Joseph Leonard Johnson and went to live at Bawlf, Alberta where Joseph was employed at the Bergum garage. They moved back to Donaldda where they resided for a number of years. In May 1948, they moved to Calgary, Alberta where they were in charge of Bethany Home and Auxiliary Hospital. In 1957 they moved to Kaslo, B.C. and operated a Senior Citizen Home until 1966, after which time they were



The Stener Hilde Family. Back row — Geyhard, Alfred, Selmer, Esther, Andrew, Albert, Peter. Front row — Mabel, Clara, Gertrude, Lila, Sophie.

engaged in serving the Nelson Evangelical Covenant Church. Due to Joseph's failing health they moved to Nelson in 1974. Joseph passed away February 5, 1978. To their marriage were born three children: Esther, David and Pauline.

Esther graduated from nurses training and Bible School and went as a missionary to Aden in 1961, under Red Sea Mission Team. She met Michael Beck in Aden who was stationed there with the Royal Air Force. They were married in 1969 and served as missionaries in Aden, Ethiopia, North Yemen, London and Birmingham, England. They moved to Canada in 1978 and reside at Surrey, B.C. in charge of headquarters for Red Sea Mission Team. They have one daughter, Deborah.

David lives at Nelson, B.C. where he is employed as an electrician for the Department of Highways. They have five children: Sharol, David, Juanita, Becky and Joey Karl.

Sharol is married to Neil Josephson and lives at Surrey, B.C.

David is married to Sheryl Meyers and lives in Calgary. They have one son, Lee.

Juanita and Becky reside at home.

Joey passed away shortly after birth.

Pauline is married to Morley Lessard and resides at Surrey, B.C. They have three children: Paul, Lorraine and Randall. Pauline is employed in Medical Records at Vancouver General Hospital.

Paul is attending Bemidji, Minnesota State College, working towards an Associate Arts Degree.

Lorraine lives at home and works as a secretary in a near-by city.

Randall completed his grade nine with highest standing and is interested to be a Meteorologist.

Lila Marie (Hilde) Anderson's story follows, in the Norbo section.

Caroline (Anderson) Hilde

Caroline Elvina, the sixth child of Alfred and Andrea Anderson, was born at Armena, Alberta, and was baptized at Freidhem Lutheran Church. At eight years of age, she moved with her parents to the Norbo district and attended Norbo school. She also attended Sunday School at Norbo for several years, later going to Bethany Lutheran Church where she was confirmed by Pastor Amund Tveit.

In 1939 she married Clifford Arthur, son of Henry and Mina Johnson. They lived and farmed in the Norbo district until the time of Cliff's passing in July of 1963.

To this union four children were born:

Marlene married Otto Streberg, who is an auctioneer. They own and run the Camrose and Killam Auction Markets. They have three children: John, Daniel and Julie.

James married Pauline Neilsen of Iowa, U.S.A. He works for the Department of Human Resources for the B.C. Government and lives at Winfield, B.C. They have two children: Douglas and Denise.

Karen married Leonard Schlaut. They farm in the Rosalind district. Their children are: Cory, Rodney, and Cindy.

Kathryn married Ron Strand. They live in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where Ron works for Honeywell Company. They have one child, Rebecca Kari.

In 1967, Caroline married Andrew Hilde. They reside in Vernon, B.C.

The Ole Jacobsons

Maria and Ole Jacobson came originally from Dallarna, Sweden, and immigrated to Dalton, Minnesota, in 1905 with their family of two, Betty and Tom. In the fall of 1905, they moved to Lake Demay, northeast of Camrose, by train. Here they spent the winter with the Rev. and Mrs. L. H. Frojen. Tom went out working in lumber camps and did some trapping. In the spring of 1906, the family moved to the homestead about four miles northeast of Donalda. They lived in a neighbor's vacant house while the homestead house was being built. The first three acres broken on the homestead was done with one horse and one borrowed oxen. In 1908, another son, Oscar, was born on the homestead.

The first winter on the homestead was a hard one. The main meat dishes were prairie chicken and rabbit. One gallon of coal oil, one pound of coffee and 25¢ worth of sugar had to last one month!



Ole Jacobson homestead house. Mr. and Mrs. Ole Jacobson and son Oscar on left.

Tom married Mathilda Johnson and lived on his homestead next to the home quarter. To this couple, four children were born on the homestead, namely Alice (who died of pneumonia in infancy), Ethel, Theodore and Marion. Another son, Eddie, was born after the family moved to Perow, B.C. Tom passed away while his children were very young. Most, if not all, of Tom and Mathilda's descendents live in B.C. now. Mathilda resides in Kelowna.

Betty became Mrs. Pete Nordvie. They spent much of their early married life farming in the Pleasington district about two miles northeast of Forestburg. Later, they moved to Donalda just north of the village on the other side of the coulee. Their family numbered six: Olga, Mildred, Beatrice, Palmer, Clarence and Vernon. Pete Nordvie passed away in 1962. Betty, now 80 years of age, resides in the Grand Prairie Auxiliary Hospital.

Oscar's family history follows later.

Old Grandma Jacobson is well remembered for her quick actions, her keen sense of humor and her spunky nature. Much of her time was taken up with the milk cows, the chickens and the gardens. In summer, she would gather up the berry pails and go into "seventeen" to scout for saskatoons. She must have been close to 80 when she decided to take her first bike ride!

The Jacobsons

Oscar, the only son of Maria and Ole Jacobson, was born on the homestead four miles north-east of Donalda in 1908. His entire life was spent there on what is best known as "the hardpan". In 1936 he was married to Margaret (Monson) to which union thir-

teen children were born. The firstborn was a son, Marlin, who died in infancy. Six sons and six daughters comprise the family which, in first to-last order are: Marjorie (Mrs. Howard Steinhoff, High River); Arnold of Forestburg (married to Arleen Norman); Sylvia (Mrs. Allen Webster, Stettler); Lorna (Mrs. Max Zellwegger, Grand Cache); Valerie (Mrs. Ted Nelson, Prince George, B.C.); Gordon of Red Deer; Stanley of Big Valley; Allen of Big Valley (married to Helen Kenzler); Dorothy (Mrs. Eldon Raudebaugh, Red Deer); Blake and Betty (twins) and Lyle, all of Red Deer. Oscar passed away in 1972 and Margaret has since made her home in Red Deer.

The land description of the home-quarter was NW ¼ 16-42-18. During the period that the family was growing up (approximately 1940-1960), the closest neighbors were Russel Bailey, Butler Bailey, John Stanvick, the Ole Stanviks, Steve Mudry, Pete Nordvie and Jack Cook. Further east in the heart of the hardpan resided two bachelor neighbors, namely Fred Ullman and Oscar Flavin.

Older members of the family attended the Ibsen School which was about two miles to the north-east. This was before the days of school buses. Horses, bikes and Shank's pony were the standard means of getting to and from school. Keeping fit wasn't the problem it is today. Keeping warm was a much more pressing concern. Some of the teachers at Ibsen that this writer recalls are: May (Whamond) Bjorge; Wayne French (presently principal of Sifton School, Camrose); Annie Heatly; Eleanor Grant Cook; Leona (Tscherrin) Vold; Doreen Anderson and Doris Pearson. Mr. Robinson was the School Inspector of the Camrose area which then included our region. The early fifties saw the first major move toward greater centralization of schools and as a result Ibsen was closed in favor of busing the children to Donalda, the "town school".

We went to Sunday School at the Bethany Church first, most often walking to Knudtson's corner and then catching a ride with Eilert, Inga and Ruby. Later, we started going to the Sharon Lutheran Church in Donalda. Sometimes Ray Banta would come out into our neighborhood and take us to Sunday School by bus. Oft times, we would walk — a distance of four miles to town and then back. Some of the ministers of this period were Pastors Gordon Hope, Ole Olson and Leonard Sogge. As today, the annual Sunday School program at Christmas was the main event of the year. The Christian leadership of such people as Betsy Vikse, Evelyn Ames, Connie Westlund, Irene Stolee and Mrs. George Anderson is well remembered.

This family experienced remnants of the classical

pioneer era. The delayed effects of the Industrial Revolution reached our farm in 1949 when the first tractor, a new Massey 30, arrived on the scene and put some of the horses to pasture. It was not until the late fifties that the luxury of electricity was realized. Nevertheless, there was always a lot of manual labor to be done on the little, not-too-mechanized mixed farm. There was always a goodly number of cows to be milked by hand; fencing to be done on the often impenetrable sun-baked hardpan; the incessant cycle of pitching feed and manure; and carrying daily supplies of coal, wood and water. The 4-H Clubs emerged in the early fifties and this provided an opportunity to get some improved dairy stock. The Henkes and Crams were dairy club leaders at this time while Bruce Salmon helped to get the first 4-H Beef Club going.

Hardpan farming was not an easy life but it wasn't all that bad either. There were "holidays in the sun" — not experienced in the South Seas — but nevertheless, holidays that could be enjoyed out on the land picking roots, making hay (usually slough hay) or weeding the gardens. Poisoning gophers and picking sow thistles were rather sporty pastimes. and with so many sisters and brothers, recreational things were never difficult to arrange. For each antagonist there was usually an equal and opposite protagonist. Summer holidays highlites of those days seem very modest when compared to the types of things that turn people on today. The three most anxiously awaited extravaganzas in ascending order of magnitude would have to be the Sunday School picnic, the year-end country school picnic and the Stettler Stampede! (Whatever happened to the good old Stettler Stampede?)

Today, raising a family of twelve on a section of land would seem to be an incredible feat — especially on the hardpan. To stick with it through one's entire lifetime, through thick and thin (in many ways more thin than thick), one must possess a deep undercurrent of love for the land and the spindly plant life it can support. But, more than this, Dad enjoyed the livestock and derived a great pleasure ensuring their well-being. To be sure, there were no real hardships. But the hardpan is being abandoned by the new generations. Clearly, there is an exodus. Maybe, at long last, the pioneer spirit of old has been lost in the modern day pursuit of better things.

Peter Johnson

Peter Johnson was born on Halsenoy Island near Bergen Norway in 1846. Anna was born in 1852. They came from Norway at an early age and met and married in the United States.

They lived in Iowa and later in Walworth County, South Dakota. Their house and barn were built of sod. Then they bought a hotel along the Missouri River at Lebeau. The lumber from it was hauled home and a house built. Later they moved to Selby, South Dakota. Peter sold three, three year old steers, weighing around fifteen hundred pounds each for forty-five dollars. Wood was scarce so firewood had to be hauled from an island in the Missouri about thirteen miles away. The cottonwood logs could be four feet through at the butt, tough sawing and splitting. One day they came home with an oak log ten feet long and three feet in diameter. This was sawed into boards.



The Peter Johnson Family. Taken just before they left South Dakota in 1902. Back row — Jonas, Lars, Henry. Middle row — Mathilde, Helmar, Martha. Seated — Peter, Helen, Anna.

In 1902 Peter Johnson and his wife Anna came to Alberta, with their belongings, by immigrant train as far as Wetaskiwin.

The family of Gertrude, Jonas, Lars, Henry, Martha, Anna, Helmar, Mathilda and Helen came at different times. Anna had married Ole Leboe and came in 1901. Gertrude married Stener Hilde, came in 1902. Lars came in 1904 and Jonas in 1907.

When the family arrived at Wetaskiwin everything had to be hauled out by team, and the stock herded to the homestead that had been filed on.

Though only five years of age at this time, Helen



Uncle Helmar Johnson and his dog Jack.

remembers the ride in the democrat to the homestead at what became Donalda north (Donalda was not surveyed yet). The ride through sloughs and wet land terrified her and the other children, as the country they came from was very dry.

Their mother Anna felt she was coming to an Eden, as here was green vegetation, berries to pick, prairie chickens, ducks and rabbits to eat, and no danger of rattlesnakes anywhere. She was so happy to be away from a country where Russian thistles were so thick and water had to be hauled even for the cattle.

Until some buildings could be erected they lived in tents. A log house was built for the family and sheds for the stock. At first their closest store was Wetaskiwin, later Bawlf, Heather Brae, then Ferry Point and later a store some miles west of their farm called the Ellefson Store.

It was four years before we got a school and then for only six months of the year. They walked about three miles to school.

Many times the boys came home at night with tubs full of muskrats to skin. There was no open or closed seasons then. Whenever needed they also brought home the family meat supply with their hunting. The boys homesteaded and broke much land with oxen for themselves and others. In 1909 they



The Peter Johnson Home.

had their first steam outfit. They also built several homes in the district.

Of course it wasn't all sunshine for the Johnsons when they started here either. There was no creamery, so all the cream had to be churned and most of it packed into big butter tubs. Later a creamery was started east of where Meeting Creek is now. They would come from the creamery once a week with a horse drawn wagon, to pick up, test and weigh the cream. The cream, sweet and sour, mostly sour, would be poured into a big barrel. Peter had the first cream separator in the neighborhood, an old fashioned Sharpless model, and also owned one of the first gramophones in this area.

After the winter of the Deep Snow, drifts remained in the Meeting Creek coulees as late as June of the next summer. Hundreds of cattle died that winter. They did not lose any but had to use the old hay off the barn for feed. Prairie fires were another hazard, one of which raged near the farm and would have burned the buildings, had it not been for a slough close to the place.

Peter was an avid carpenter and made the Baptismal Font at Bethany.

Jonas married Emelie Duklet and lived on a farm across the road from his father. Lars also had a farm close to home. He married Gina Simonson. Martha married Thor Eikeland and later moved to Florida. Henry married Mina Duklet and farmed in the Norbo district. Anna married Ole Leboe and lived at Pretty Hill (Dinant) where they ran a Post Office. Helmar remained a bachelor and moved to Loos, British Columbia where his sister, Anna, was then living. Mathilda married Thomas Westgarde and also lived in British Columbia. Helen married Butler Bailey and lives in the Donalda district.

Anna passed away in 1928 and Peter in 1932.

Helen Bailey of Donalda and Mathilda Westgrade of Kelowna are the only living members of the Peter Johnson family.

The E. Knudtson Family

As a young lad of sixteen Eilert Knudtson left his native home in Molde, Norway for the United States. In 1905, at the age of twenty-nine, he came from South Dakota and filed on the homestead situated on the N.E. ¼ 20-42-18-W4 north of Donald. During the summer of 1906 he built a house twelve by fourteen feet. In the fall he married Martha Lyseng at Armena who had emigrated with her parents from Minnesota in 1902. Due to deep snow they were unable to return to their homestead until the following spring. It took three days to make the journey of fifty miles by wagon and a yoke of oxen.

The homestead consisted of 60 acres open prairie, twenty acres hayland and eighty acres timber (poplar and willow). By 1909 in proving up his homestead he had twenty-eight acres under cultivation. He then possessed; three driving oxen; 6 cows; two one year old heifers; five spring calves; frame house (valued at \$200.00); frame granary and barn (valued at \$100.00).

In those early years we shopped at I. Bjorge & Sons store which was on Rosenberg Stolee's land



Eilert, the father, Hans, Sophie, Kenneth, Martha, the mother holding Gordon, Inga and Eileen in front.



E. Knudtson's steam engine.

about one mile north of Ibsen School. We also got our mail there at the Norbo Post Office. By 1910 Ibsen School was built one mile east of our place. Bethany congregation was to the north of us.

As the years went by we progressed from oxen to horses, to steam engine, threshing machine and a Ford car. (Alas, in 1932 we regressed to the Bennett Buggy for the Hungry Thirties were upon us).

Some of us started school in 1914. School was not always in operation due to a shortage of teachers. During the Flu Epidemic of 1918-19, school was closed for a time as teachers were compelled to go to the aid of sick families. Jorgine Hendrickson, Ibsen's first teacher, was one of those who lost her life due to this Flu Epidemic.

At school we played the usual games; basketball, baseball, dodgeball, etc. Occasionally in sports we were in competition with other schools. School fairs also broke the monotony where we tried to excel in sewing, baking, penmanship, art, sports, as well as raising farm animals and growing vegetables.

In those days there was no lack of community activities. We could enjoy choir, Young People Society, Girls Circle, skating and coasting parties. For adults there were picnics, concerts, quilting bees, Ladies Aid sales, suppers and church conventions.



Eilert Knudtson Family. Back row — Kenneth, Gordon, Sophie, Eilert, Eileen, Hans. Front row — Olga, Ruby, Inga.

Berry picking and threshing were busy but festive occasions.

Crossing the coulee north of Donald could cause us suspense during the spring thaw. One Easter our aunt and uncle, Alma and George Lyseng, came by train from Camrose to visit us. The road was fine the day they came but when Dad took them back to meet the train in Donald much of the flat was covered with water. He crossed the first bridge but the smaller one, twelve feet wide with no railing could not be

seen. Dad got out to find it. He missed it and found himself standing in the creek up to his shoulders. When he located the bridge he was able to guide the others across.

Dad was interested in the welfare of the community. As well as working with the church, he served on the council and school board.

Mother died in 1926. In the fall of 1930, Dad married Katherine Ness. She died in 1948.

We were eight children, three boys and five girls. Dad passed away in 1959 and Inga in 1976. Eileen, Olga and Ruby reside in Calgary. Kenneth lives in Camrose, Hans and Gordon in the Donalda district. Their stories follow.

Sophie and her husband, Jack Gerlinger lived in Lymburn, Alberta, where he had a store for thirty-six years. Their children attended Lambert public school, one half mile from town. They took their high school at Concordia College, Edmonton. The three oldest girls received their nurses training at the General Hospital and Irene got her R.N. at the Royal Alex.

In 1973 they sold the store and moved to Edmonton where their children lived.

Loraine, the oldest, married Walter Seehagel and their home is now in Calgary where Walter works with Paramount Life Insurance. Their three boys, Scott, Darryl, and Tim have graduated from High School. At present two of the boys live in Edmonton.

Janet married Bill Siegle and they reside on a farm near Clyde. Their three boys, Earl, Mark, and Darren enjoy working on the farm with machinery and like his father Earl is now a pilot.

Nancy married Les Starling who is manager of Suburban Motor Company in Victoria. Their children, Carole and Kevin, are both employed in the vicinity.

Irene and Gary Gabert have just built a new house on a farm near Fort Saskatchewan. Gary has an office with the Parks and Recreation Department. Their four year old son, Dean, has a hey-day exploring his grandpa's farm machinery.

John and Ruth live near Stony Plain where John sells firewood and coal. Their home is blessed with two children, a little girl, Brenda, and James, who will carry on the family name.

The Hans Knudtson Family

Hans Knudtson was born at Donalda and attended Ibsen school. He has lived all his life in this area.

In the difficult thirties he worked three years as a farm labourer, when wages were low and hours were long. In those days no one had heard of the eight-hour day or the five-day week. When he did have a

Sunday off, his means of transportation between home and the place he worked was a bicycle.



Hans Knudtson Family. Back row — Paul, Anne Marie, Hans. Front row — Allen, Lois, Arthur.

About 1940 he returned home to farm with his father, later moving to a farm nearby on the S.W. ¼-29-42-18-w4, where he still resides.

Many changes in the methods of farming have taken place in this period of time. The excitement of seeing his dad's steam engine coming into the yard after dark, pulling a threshing machine, a granary tied behind; the sparks flying, and a blast of the whistle cannot be duplicated with the modern tractor.

Different methods of putting up hay have been used — pitchfork, bucking pole, home made stacker, tractor loader and big round baler.

In the mid-forties the first new tractor came on the scene, and shortly after, a number 17 model Massey combine, which was purchased in partnership with a neighbor who later became a brother-in-law.

Hans, for one, seemed to think that now there was almost no limit to what they could harvest — with a ten-foot machine, and straight combining. They took on almost more than they could handle, and had to work day and night. A few harvests like this brought them to more realistic ways to take off the crop.

In June of 1947, Hans married Anne Marie Johnson, a neighbor girl who lived three and a half miles from his parental home. Anne Marie, the daughter of



Spring Fever. Lois and Paul Knudtson.



Hans Knudtson and Mike Stolee moving a barn across the fields.

Henry and Mina Johnson, grew up in the Norbo district.

The first two years in their new home, they were unable to get water. During this time all water for cooking and drinking was hauled in cream cans from his dad's well. Finally water was located, and their second wedding anniversary was spent putting casing in the new well — a real cause for celebration.

Hans and Anne Marie have five children. Allen was one of eight first graders who started school the last year Ibsen was open. He continued his schooling in Donalda and Camrose. After taking an electronics course in Calgary, he worked for some time in Lethbridge. At present he is in Calgary, where he is employed at a television station.

Arthur took his schooling in Donalda and Stettler. He also attended Bible School, as did all the others in the family. Arthur is now farming with his father.

Paul graduated in the spring of 1979 from the University of Calgary. He plans to continue his education. Paul, his wife Elaine and daughter Kristina Ruth (Kristy) live in Calgary.

The fourth son, David Merlin, died at the age of twenty-two months.

Lois, the youngest, is taking a nurses training course at Red Deer College.

There have been good days and bad, but we can truly say "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

The Gordon Knudtson Family

Gordon Knudtson married Letha Felzien, of Forestburg, on February 1, 1942, and made their first home on the Oscar Layher farm. Later they purchased and moved to the Pete Johnson farm and then to the Abraham Jerstad farm, where they now reside. In 1959, with the help of the children, a new house was built. Gordon began farming with horses, but soon changed to an Allis Chalmers tractor. The horse power was there but it had to be fed in a



The Gordon Knudtson Family. Back to front, L-R: Robert, Joe, Lester, Dennis, Daniel, Cathy, Carol, Barbara, Ruby, Lis, Krista, Douglas, Gordon, Letha, Bradley, Lorne, Linda, Michael, Lisa, Kirsten.

different way. Along with the tractor, came a change in machinery. Mixed farming has been Gordon's career. They have six children: Carol, Daniel, Dennis, Lester, Robert, and Corrine. They all took their primary and secondary education in the area, then went on for further education.

Carol was born on December 25, 1942. After she finished her schooling here, she took nurse's training, graduating from the General Hospital in Calgary, as a Registered Nurse, in 1965. She worked in Red Deer, Ponoka, Vancouver, Claresholm, and Lethbridge. On February 19, 1966, Carol and Joe Gorsalitz, also a Registered Nurse, were married. They have three children: James, born in 1966; Lorne, born in 1970; and Linda, born in 1972. They have taken up residence near Lousana, Alberta. Joe has retired from nursing and is presently employed as a drywalller.

Daniel was born on May 28, 1945. He graduated from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Petroleum Technology in 1966. Working in the petroleum industry since that time has led to living locations at Drayton Valley; Rocky Mountain House; Edmonton; Argentina, South America; and Calgary. This year, 1979, the family moved from Calgary to a new farm site located one and half miles north of Donalda. From there, Dan continues his work as a Petroleum Production Consultant. Married to Lis, originally from Calgary, they have four children: Brian, eight; Lisa, five; and twins, Jeffery and Amanda, born in 1979.

Dennis was born on December 12, 1946. He took one year of Bible School before going on to the University of Calgary, graduating as an Electrical Engineer in 1970. Since that time he has worked for Amoco Petroleum Co. Ltd. at Whitecourt; Chicago, Illinois; and Calgary. Dennis and Ruby were married on August 23, 1969. They have two children; Douglas, born in 1971; and Kirsten, born in 1974. They are presently located in Calgary, where Dennis is employed as an Engineering Supervisor over Gas Plants. Ruby, who gained her Bachelor of Education degree in 1978, is presently teaching school; Grades one, two and three.

Lester was born on March 14, 1949. He graduated from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Electronic Technology in 1971. Since graduation, he has worked for Alberta Government Telephones in Red Deer and district, as an Electronic Technician. Lester and Barbara, a nursing aide, were married on August 29, 1970. They have two children; Krista, born in 1972; and Michael, born in 1974.

Robert was born on September 2, 1951. He

attended Camrose Lutheran College for two years studying towards his Bachelor of Science Degree. He later moved to Calgary for two years at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, graduating with an honours diploma in Business Administration in 1974. Following his graduation he accepted a position with the Bank of Montreal, working in Lloydminster, Sherwood Park and Edmonton. Robert and Cathy, a Registered Nurse, were married on July 31, 1976. Presently they live and farm a half mile south of the Gordon Knudtson farm and have one son Bradley, born 1977.

Corrine was born on October 3, 1955. After a year of Bible School she attended the British Columbia Institute of Technology in Vancouver, graduating as a Medical Laboratory Technician in 1977. She and Rod Roste were married on August 16, 1975. They presently live in Mission, British Columbia, where Corrine works in the hospital, and Rod operates his own plumbing business.

As all the children are now married, Gordon and Letha have had time to relax and travel. In 1977, they enjoyed a trip to Israel and Greece; and in 1979, they travelled to Disneyland, in California.

The Kenneth Knudtson Family

My father homesteaded north-east of Donalda. We were a family of eight children. I went to Ibsen School, where all grades were taught. We were fortunate to always have a good teacher, so most got a good education.

We had fun thrown in too. Some of us boys



Some Hardpan Hicks — 1933. Softball Team. Back row — Palmer Rake, John Stanvick, Clifford Alveberg, Ray McIntyre. Middle row — Simon Stanvick, Barney Henrikson, Otto Stanvick, Palmer Nordvie. Front row — Kenneth Knudtson, Henry Henrikson, Oscar Jacobson.

(about ten to twelve years) went for a nude swim in a creek some distance away. The girls decided to have fun too, so they came and grabbed all our clothes, carried them towards the school and tossed them high into the trees. Climbing trees without clothes was no fun. We got late for school, and had to sit in.

About 1933, we formed a soft-ball team, called the "Hardpan Hicks". In those days we used the outseam ball. We had a fairly good team, so we had much fun even if we had to walk to practices. The horses had to be used in the fields. We had large crowds at our games, and I imagine everyone remembers those days.

Four years of my life were spent at Exshaw Cement Plant. That was during the depression years, so I considered myself lucky. That too was shut down in 1932, so I had to find something else. Wages were poor, I remember getting \$25.00 a month in summer and \$10.00 in winter. We had to work hard, but when you are young that didn't seem to hurt.

Many things have changed since the early days — but nature left Donalda district beautiful valleys, creeks and rivers which do not change very much. They will be remembered by everyone who has lived there.



Kenneth Knudtson Family. Merrill, Norris, Beverly, Brenda, Kenneth, Bernice, Loren, Charlotte, Colleen. Children — Connell, Ted and Eric.

Kenneth married Bernice Lomnes from Armena on November 26, 1938. They farmed on S.E. ¼ 30-42-18 in the Ibsen District. In the spring of 1943, they moved to Armena where they farmed for several years. Later they moved to Camrose where they still reside.

Kenneth and Bernice have three sons and two daughters. Norris, his wife Charlotte and son Eric live in Winnipeg. Norris is Zone Distribution Manager for General Motors.

Merril is a Medical Doctor. He and his wife

Colleen, sons Connell and Ted, are living in Atlanta, Georgia where Merrill is taking a course in cardiology.

Loren is in Calgary with the Recreation Department of the Y.M.C.A.

Brenda works at Bethany Auxiliary Hospital in Camrose. She was married to Rob Hanoski the summer of 1979.

Beverly lives in Edmonton where she is an operator with the Canadian National Railways.

Charlie and Martha Layher

by Oscar Layher

Charlie Layher was born in Southern Russia on April 24, 1862. His family arrived in Manchester, Michigan, U.S.A. in 1871. He was one of thirteen children. Charlie married Martha Solomonson of Thule, South Dakota on November 22, 1889 in Thule, South Dakota by a Justice of the Peace. Dad was a carpenter and was in a partnership in Harriet, North Dakota. He and his partner made anything in wood; wheels, barrels, desks, and cabinets. They also contracted the building of houses, barns and stores. He built his own home in North Dakota. Since Dad disliked office work, he did the outside work, building the houses and barns etc., leaving the paper work to his partner who doctored the books in his own favor. This caused the partnership to dissolve and Dad sold everything. In 1908 he and his family moved to Grandad Solomonson's farm at Ibsen, Alberta. Here Dad built a replica of his North Dakota home.

Dad first came to Alberta in the fall of 1905 to visit Mom's family. Mother had a sister, Molly (Mrs. R. Stolee), two brothers, Hans and Thom Solomonson, as well as her Father and Mother, all living in Alberta on their homesteads. They lived on adjacent



Charley, Matilda, Martha Layher.

quarter sections of land. In 1908 Dad and Mother moved to Ibsen (Donalda) to look after Grandad Solomonson, who was ill at the time. Grandad died



Dad, (Charley Layher) and his grandchildren taken in 1914. Howard, Mary, Charles Dale and Leona. Thelma was born in 1941 and Barry in 1956.

shortly after they arrived and both he and Grandma Solomonson are buried in the Ferry Point Cemetery.

Mother and Dad had no children of their own, but over the years they adopted three children; Christine Matilda (Tilly), born October 1892, married in 1910 to Martin Bjorge, and resided in Long Beach, California; Oscar John, born March 28, 1906 and Howard born June 8th, 1916. Howard was killed in a car accident in California on November 14th, 1936.

The Ibsen school district was established in 1910. Land was donated by Dad who also built the school. The school building is still in use as the Ibsen Community Hall. Since our house was near the school, and large enough for an extra bedroom, we always boarded the school teacher.

In the fall of 1914 or 1915 a tragedy occurred in our house which changed our lives. This tragedy was not of our family but involved house guests in an attempted murder-suicide. This incident upset Mother so much that she became very ill from shock and had nightmares, so we were unable to live in the house any longer and finally moved into Donalda for the winter. We went back to the farm in the spring and stayed until the fall of 1918 when Dad sold the farm and retired. After the auction sale of the property, Dad built his home in Donalda at cost for the material of \$1,500. There again, Mother boarded the school teacher.

In 1921 Dad and Rosenberg Stolee went to California to work, as the building boom in California was paying the enormous wages of \$10.00 per day.

Uncle Hans and Aunt Christie, Mom's sister and brother, were already living there. After six or seven months the building boom was over and Dad and Uncle Rosenberg came back home. My sister, Tilly, her husband, Martin and family moved to California in 1923.

In 1923 Dad took a trip to Detroit to visit his family. Close to two hundred relatives turned out for a special celebration, a family reunion, for Dad. Naturally all of these were not Layhers as his six sisters all had families.

From approximately 1923 to 1928 Mom operated a rooming house and restaurant.

In 1928 Dad built a small two room house and a barn on the quarter section of land, one mile west of the Ibsen School.



Uncle Charley, Aunt Martha, Matilda, Oscar.

In the fall of 1929 Mom and Dad separated; they sold the house in Donalda and an auction sale of the furniture and restaurant equipment. Dad kept the land and Mom got most of the money and returned to California with Howard. They went by way of South Dakota to visit brothers and sisters (thirteen in her family) most of them still living at that time in South Dakota.

In 1936 Mom's sister Christie, her brother Hans and her daughter Mathilda and family lived in or near Long Beach California. When Howard was nineteen years old he worked in a service station and was killed in a car accident. Following this accident Mom and Uncle Hans both had heart attacks and both died a few months later. Mom died on February 2, 1937.

In 1930 I went teaching school in the community

of Anselmo, twelve miles west of the town of Mayerthorpe, Alberta. On December 9, 1933, I married Mildred Fellows of Anselmo and we had seven children. In 1936 I quite teaching and went to help Dad on the farm as it was getting too much for him.

The year 1941 started out good, but ended in disaster; crops failed, Dad went to a Senior Citizen's home in Bawlf, Alberta in June. My total crop was 120 bushels of wheat from twenty acres of land, barley and oat crops were nil. (dried out) I had to sell my nine head of cattle, fourteen pigs and had an auction sale for what little equipment I had. I rented the farm to Gordon Knudtson, moved my family to Donalda, and on September 1, 1941, I left for Calgary with Jack Cook to attend school to train as a factory munitions worker. The Government allowed us \$2.00 per day living expenses. On September 6th, Dad died of a heart attack. As I was already in Calgary, the Knudtson's and other neighbours dug the grave and made all the arrangements for his burial in Bethany Church cemetery. To these neighbours I owe a debt of gratitude which can never be repaid.

From that time on we lived in Calgary. After the war I worked as a painter and decorator, with Henry Henrikson. Then I had a partnership in Machinery Service and Supply Co. and later as a Loans Officer in Inglewood Credit Union. In 1976 I retired and live with my wife Mildred in Calgary. Our daughters, Mary, Leona and Thelma also live in Calgary with their families. The boys, Howard and Dale live in B.C. and Charles lives in the Peace River District. Our youngest son Barry died on March 9th, 1978 at the age of twenty-one years, after an operation. At this date we have fifteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Roy and Dorothy McDougall

Roy (Scotty) and Dorothy bought the Marcel Blouin farm building site and 3 acres in 1978 for a retirement home. Dorothy has retired from outpost nursing — I'll bet she could write a book on that! Roy retired from commercial fishing on the west coast, and is now bee keeper and market gardener.

Dan Mudry

Dan Mudry worked in the Red Willow and Donalda areas before the war. In the mid 40's he rented the SW ¼-28-42-18 from Oscar Layher. Dan farmed this land for about two years. Dan's brother Steve Mudry then bought the land.

When leaving the Ibsen area, Dan Mudry headed north to Keg River, where he took up a homestead. Dan married late in life and returned to Saskatchewan to retire.

Dan Mudry passed away late in the fall of 1976.

Nordvie — Jacobson Story

Sophia Jacobson and her son Joe arrived at Donalda in 1905, and took a homestead which is now owned by Bert Stanvik.

Her daughter Elsie was born at Donalda in 1907. She remembers walking in the hills and around the creek locating the milk cows and picking saskatoons, etc.

Sophia married Olaf Nordvie in 1914, and they



Sophie and Olaf Nordvie after their retirement from Sophie's homestead north of Donalda.

farmed until 1942, when they retired to Donalda. Sophia passed away in 1951 and Olaf in 1953.

Joe Jacobson worked on the original construction of the railroad through Donalda around 1911. Joe is now 88 years old and living in the Auxiliary Hospital at Stettler, Alberta.

Elsie married Oscar Nordvie in 1927. They had 3 sons, Marvin (born 1928), Eldon (1930), and Dennis (1932). A daughter Eunice was born in 1936.

Oscar, who was a well-known auctioneer in the Donalda and Forestburg areas, passed away in 1964. Marvin and Eldon passed away in 1974 and 1976 respectively. Marvin left two daughters — Debbie Franklin and Cathy Nordvie of Kelowna, B.C. Debbie has a four-year-old daughter (Lacey) and one son (Cayle) five months old.

Dennis is working for a construction company at Edmonton, and maintains permanent ties with Donalda.

Eunice (Webb) lives with her family at New Westminster, B.C. Her children are Joanne (19 yrs.), Sandra (18 yrs.), and twins Devon and Karen (14 yrs.).

Elsie now lives at Bethany Sunset Home in Camrose. She still maintains contact with many close friends at Donalda area.

Harold Nordvie was also a well-known farmer in the Donalda area. He passed away in 1968.

Gordon Orr

In 1965, Gordon, wife Merna (Myrmo) and three children, Mickey, aged five, Carrie, three and Colleen, one, purchased the Frank Blady farm located at 35-42-18 in the Ibsen Community. They left the family farm at Rosalind to take up residence there.

The children attended public school in Donalda and later attended high school in Stettler and Rosalind.

In 1972 a second son Rodger was born. In 1979 Mickey married the former Wendy Messer and they reside in Stettler.



Gordon Orr family 1972:

The Oscar Pearson Family by Doris Pearson

Oscar Pearson was born in Sweden, the youngest child and only son in the family. In 1927, at the age of 24, he emigrated to Canada, and came to live at Donalda with his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Berg. He purchased land adjacent to their farm and worked with them in their farming operation. Alfred Berg died in the late thirties and Mrs. Berg in 1941. Oscar then continued to rent the farm from Amy Berg.

Oscar and I (Doris Glasener, Ryley) were married in July 1947. That summer we purchased the Berg farm. That was Oscar's home until his passing in 1966, and I lived there until 1978. Our two sons, John, born in 1948, and David in 1950 attended the Donalda and Stettler schools.

I came to Donalda in September 1941 to teach grades 5-8 in the four room Donalda School. School opening had been delayed that fall because of an epidemic of infantile paralysis. One September day, before the opening of school, I decided to drive down to Donalda and look over my new teaching situation. I shall never forget my first view of Donalda and the coulee from the north hill. I stopped the car and just sat there and looked in all directions at the beautiful autumn colors and the buildings rising in the distance. Since then I have never tired of driving around and appreciating the scenery in the Donalda coulee and the Battle River valley.

One thing that puzzled me at first was that the farmers seemed to farm around the trees, and fields were so cut up and oddly shaped. Where I had come from the land was less rolling, and trees fell to the "brushers" and "root-pickers" to get more acres into crop production.

When Oscar married me he probably thought he was taking quite a chance, as he did not know whether I could cook. That first summer was very dry, but I managed to find enough peas in the patch to can six quarts. Next year, wouldn't you know, the pea patch seemed to be about three times as big.

I should mention that Oscar really enjoyed gardening. I wanted to show what I could do, too, and we had quite a few brisk discussions on minor subjects such as how far apart the peas should be planted in the row. I thought they should be about one inch apart, but he insisted there should be about three inches between the seeds. (Our neighbor, Mrs. Whamond, advised us to plant one pea for ourselves and one for cutworms.) However, I was definitely not the expert: the weeds just never seemed to stay dead when I hoed in the garden. So I confined my efforts to raising bedding plants and flowers.

After we purchased the farm we had spent quite a bit of time and effort, to say nothing of money, in improving the older part of the house. Shortly after we had finished laying a new fir floor in the living room, on the 28th of May, 1950, our home was destroyed by fire. This was a memorable experience. But it could have been much worse. No one was hurt, and minor inconveniences are not so hard to put up with in the summer. Besides, at times like that you find out what really good neighbors you have. The men of the community organized a work bee to finish

putting in our crop while we made efforts to get resettled. Archie and Edna Whamond offered us their house for the summer as they were living in Camrose at the time. It served us very well, even though a bat or two occasionally flew in through the upstairs window and zoomed around our heads at night. That summer we built a new house, and, although it was not finished, we moved in on September 14th. Two days later I made an early morning trip to Camrose for the birth of my youngest son, David.

Our crops had been snowed down for two years and rural electrification was coming that fall, so I decided to return to teaching in 1952. This was to be for a couple of years (I thought). The two years stretched into about 19 years with a few odd years out to catch up with home affairs. I retired permanently in 1974, hoping to have time to try to do a few other activities. I had enjoyed teaching and missed it quite badly at first. But I finally had my chance to putter in the garden, spend time in the berry patch and enjoy the activities of the various seasons, without having to worry about dashing off on Monday morning.

Oscar farmed up until the time of his illness in 1965. He passed away in February 1966.

At that time we considered selling the farm, but gave up that idea and decided to go into the farming business. Thanks to John, we survived, although it was at times a breathtaking as well as a learning experience.

John had decided that farming was his vocation, and that he wanted to live on the home place. In August, 1978 he was married to Jeanne McKinley, who was from Edmonton, but had been working as an operating room nurse in the Camrose hospital. They now live on the farm, and I do not think there are many arguments about who plants the garden.

In 1970 David was married to Margaret Dunbar, of Irma. They had met while attending Camrose Lutheran College. They now have two sons, Ryan, aged three, and James, who was born on June 29, 1979. Dave and Marg live in Rainbow Lake, where they operate a catering business.

Peder Stanvik

(third son of Peder Iverson Stanvigsrandon)

Peder was born in 1878 in Gudbrandsdalen, Norway. He filed on a homestead S.W. 1/4-16-42-18-w4, with his father, where he built his home. He went back to Norway, bringing his wife Annie back to his homestead where their children were born, Hjalmer, Melvin, Rachel and Clara.

The boys went to school at Ibsen and Rachel being younger, had only been going for her first few years when they moved away. In 1928 they sold their



Double Silver Wedding Anniversary — 1936. Peter and Annie Stanvik and family — Rachel, Melvin and Clara. Ole and Marie Stanvik and family — Otto, Bert, John, Simon, Alvin and Mabel.



Ole, Mathias, and their parents, Peter and Marit Stanvik. Taken in 1903.

place to his brother Ole Stanvik and moved to the Rosebush district east of Edberg, where Rachel continued her education and Clara started hers.

They had the misfortune of losing their elder son, Hjalmar in a swimming mishap in 1931.



The Stanvik family at their home in Norway just before they left for America, 1891. Left to right: Iver, Annie, Mathias, Grandpa and Grandma (Mr. and Mrs. Peter Stanvik) Carrie and Peter. Ole was already in America.

They farmed there until the early 1940's when they sold and bought a farm west of Sylvan Lake, and farmed it until his retirement years. Peder passed away in 1951 at the age of seventy-three years. Annie



Grandma Stanvik on her eightieth Birthday. Back row — Simon, Otto, Maria — Ole's wife, Iver's wife Emilie, Peter's wife Annie. Second row — Mathias, Carrie, Ole, Ole's mother, Iver and Peter. First row — John, Hjalmer, Bert, Lorna, Mabel, Lillie, Rachel, Maude, Rachel, Alvin Clara.

lived on in the care of her daughters Clara and Rachel until her passing in 1964.

Melvin and his wife Ethel have retired at Penhold, they have three children, a daughter and two sons, Dorothy, Clayton and Donald. Rachel and her husband Vince are working towards retirement on their farm west of Sylvan Lake. They have six sons George, David, Richard, Victor, Bruce and Stanley.

Clara is married and lives in St. Walburg, Saskatchewan. She has a daughter Lila.

My newborn baby tumbles from my arms

And toddles off to school.

A tall youth saunters home with her —

Their child brings me my shawl and stool.

—Author unknown—

Annie Stanvik (Sister)

Annie Stanvik came to Donalda area along with her parents (Peder Iverson Stanvigs Randen) (a sister to Ole Stanvik) of Gudbrandsdalen, Norway in 1903 and settled for a short time with her brother Ole on his homestead. She later went to Wetaskiwin to seek employment and found work at the hotel there.

She met and married Charlie Johnson of that area and they settled on a farm in the near vicinity.

They had three children.

Annie's son Victor and his wife, Ruth had three daughters: Lois, Linda and Laureen.

Annie's daughter Lillian married John Anderson. They had three children, Delores of Calgary, Harvey, on their farm in Wetaskiwin, Gary a Ponoka school teacher, all with children.

Lillian and Johnny Anderson have retired from their farm to Salmon Arm, British Columbia. Annie's younger son Norman Johnson was also on a farm was deceased, June 1975 and has two children, Dale and Donna Faye married with children.

Mathias Stanvik

Mathias Stanvik was born on April 19, 1890 at Gudbrandsdalen, Norway. His father was Peder Iversen and his mother Marit of (Stanvigarden) place.

In 1903 he came to Canada with his parents and sisters. He filed on a homestead SW¼ 16-42-18-W4, near where his brothers had settled.

His parents lived with him in his home until their passing. His father passed away in December of 1920 and was buried in Bethany Cemetery. His mother lived on with him and his sister Carrie and her family also came to stay with him for awhile. His mother passed away in December of 1931 and was also put to rest in Bethany Church Cemetery.

When he was left alone, he sold the house on his property and it was moved away and then he sold his land and moved to the Edberg district with his brother Peder, where he stayed for some time. Later he moved to Penhold where he has been retired for a number of years.



Mathias Stanvik in 1902.

He is the remaining pioneer of the Stanvik family. He always looks forward to the Stanvik Family reunion each year near Red Deer.

Iver Pedersen Stanvigs

Iver Pedersen Stanvigs-Randon was born in Randen, Sjoa, Gubbrandsdalen, Norway on April 26, 1873. He died March 31, 1962 at Battleground, Washington.



The Stanviks Reunion in 1979, from Alberta, British Columbia, and Washington.

At the age of nineteen Iver came to Massachusetts. Later he went back to Norway, where he met his wife-to-be. He returned to the States again, then sent for Emilie Grann. They were married in Worchester, Massachusetts in 1901.

They moved to Chicago, Illinois, a daughter was born to them on January 4, 1903. They named her Mabel Gudwar. When she was one and a half years old, they left for Norway again, living at Hamar where the Mother had many relatives.

It was at Hamar two more daughters were born, Lillie Odbjorg, born July 6, 1905 and Rachel Florence March 11, 1907.

In 1909 we again crossed the Atlantic, arriving in Donalda in cold weather. We stayed with father's brother, Ole. His sister Carrie was keeping house for him at the time. We were made so welcome.

However, a minister friend from Norway wrote to my father and urged that the family come to Walla Walla, Washington, where the girls could have the privilege of a Christian education.

Travelling to the railroad station in a wagon box was a cold trip. We had blankets covering heads and all. When we arrived in Walla Walla the peach orchards were in bloom. In my six year old mind I

thought this was heaven itself. Here I started school and attended for four years.

My youngest sister Esther Ida was born July 4, 1909.

In 1913 we all left for Norway, our father intending to come later. However when World War I broke out, my father felt it would be better to be in the United States. We came back in the Spring of 1915, and were so happy to see Papa again.

Mother died in 1917. Mabel, being the oldest, became the "mother" of the family.

Our father wanted to be near his family, so we moved to Donalda, where we lived on a farm across the coulee from Donalda.

My sisters walked to the Donalda School at first, but later our father drove a school van — with horses, of course.

Mabel married four years later, and made her home with her husband, Carl Christenson in Stanwood, Washington. They operated a print shop. They had two sons, George Lyle, who lived only six months, and Iver Oswald. A little dark-haired girl came to gladden our home. Rosalie June, born June 25, 1928, was adopted. Carl died in 1939.

Iver Stanwick sent for a family friend, Emelie Christofferson from Norway, her son Leif and daughter Solveig. They were married in Donalda in 1921. Later they moved to Stanwood where Leif became a doctor. Solveig married a young man Alfred Hanson, son of Dr. Hanson of Edberg. He also became a doctor in Glendale, California.

In 1941 Mabel married Lewis Pederson of Stanwood. Later they moved to Battle Ground, Washington with their adopted daughter Georgina Nora. Iver Christenson and family, also Rosalie and family live near them.

Georgina lives in La Mesa, California with her husband, Jeffrey Cole and sons Toni and Raymond.

The reunion of the "Stanvik" family this year of 1979 was a highlight for Mabel and Lewis and son Iver, who came up from Battle Ground, Washington to be with, and get acquainted with some of the younger generation of this family.

As an introduction I will introduce myself as I am known to those in Donalda.

My maiden name was Rachel Stanwick. I resided at Donalda from 1918 to 1926.

My mother died at College Place, Washington. My father, Iver Stanwick was left with four daughters to care for. He decided to move to Donalda



Mr. and Mrs. Iver Stanvik and Family. Back row — Mabel, Lillie. Front row — Iver, Rachel, Emelie, Esther in front.

where his folks lived. My father spent many hours of hard labor clearing land and building a house for us.

My oldest sister Mabel cooked our meals and did the necessary things to keep our home in order. She deserves many words of appreciation for devoting those years of her life to care for us.

My two sisters and I attended the Donalda Consolidated School. We usually walked, but once in a while rode in a van. We learned to enjoy school days very much. Our teachers were excellent and a friendly atmosphere always existed among the students. We became involved in various sports which were included in our program.

After completing Grade XI, I travelled to Chicago where I attended Broadview College. I studied three years and obtained my teachers certificate. I taught for three years in Saskatchewan. It was at Carlton I met Charles Shearer. In 1932 we were married at Stettler.

We made our home at Carlton. For a number of years we were kept busy with our two daughters and son. However, they are all married now with children of their own.

Norma is teaching a nursing class at Bakerfield College in California. Jim is administering to the needs of the patients at the Deerhome. Joyce married a man from Idaho. She manages business accounts in a store.

We have eleven grandchildren. Twin girls were born to our youngest daughter. We receive much pleasure from all our grandchildren.

In 1954 I commenced to teach again, having taught a total of sixteen years in Saskatchewan.

I have retired now and my husband and I live happily on a small acreage in Penhold.

We do travel to Donalda occasionally to visit our relatives. Many fond memories come to mind as I roam through Donalda and the surrounding country.

Esther Stanvick married Jewel Perry. He is a State Farm Insurance agent in Phoenix, Arizona. Their daughter Diane and husband Pat together with nine year old Laura live near by. Diane works for Chicago Title, Pat for Dial Finance and Laura keeps everyone happy.

Son Paul, his wife Dee and Paul Aaron live in Mountain View, California. Paul is managing editor of "Runners-World". Dee is a secretary. Paul Aaron, at ten, is another of his grandparents joys.

"We love Phoenix — and love to have folks come to visit us."

Ole Stanvik Story

Ole Stanvik was born September 21, 1875 at Gudbrandsdalen, Norway. His father was Peder Iver-



Ole and Maria Stanvik with Alvin before he left for overseas.

son and his mother Marit of (Stanvigsranden) place.

At the age of sixteen he left his home and family to come to America. Besides his parents there were three brothers; Iver, Peder and Mathias and two sisters Annie and Carrie.

Travelling with a friend Ole Sandbu, he journeyed to Massachusetts, U.S.A. in the early nineteen hundreds. Going on to Minnesota, Ole Stanvik worked for a few years for an Aunt and Uncle, the Ole Hagens and their neighbor H. Rongly.

Ole Sandbu travelled on and later Ole Stanvik learned of this place in Canada, where homestead land was available at such a reasonable price. It seemed most enticing and being an ambitious young man he was anxious to find out what this new country was really like.

He came by rail to Wetaskiwin in 1902 and then to this area where he filed on a homestead S.E.¼ 20-42-18-W4, which is four miles northeast of where the Village of Donalda is now situated.

The first night he spent in the attic of the Steiner Hilde log home west of where he located. The next day he busily started to make a shelter for himself which was a dugout in the side of a hill south of where he put up his buildings. He was soon quite comfortably settled but the mice thought it a cosy place and kept trying to move in with him.

Soon two of his brothers, Iver and Peder came and Peder filed on a homestead near him, the S.E.¼ 16-42-18-W4. The three brothers decided the rest of the family should be here with them. They sent tickets for their passage and in 1903 their father and mother, two sisters and younger brother arrived. They stayed with Ole until their homes were ready. He had replaced his crude dwelling with a fine two

storey log home, so all were quite comfortable. Mathias took a homestead just east of Peder, S.W. ¼ 16-42-18-W4. Soon he had a home ready and the parents moved to live with him.

In 1904 Ole went to Hay Lakes to visit his friend Ole Sandbu, to see his homestead and achievement there and was convinced to file on a homestead in that area. He began clearing and improving the land and found it very rough with stones and rock. He decided his first venture was the better of the two, so went back to his first home and took up where he had left off.



Stanvik Family 1958. Ole and Maria, Mabel, Simon, Alvin, Bert, Otto and John.

He started breaking up more land with his oxen. His brother Peder had two oxen and they would put the four together on the breaking plow. Working together they were soon able to increase their grain productions.

In the spring of 1910 Ole returned to Norway. In the fall of that year he took Marie Varphaugen also of Gudbrandsdalen for his bride and brought her back to his homestead in Canada. While he was away to Norway some of the Quesseths lived in his home while they were building on their homestead.

In 1911 he built a two story home from lumber that he logged and had sawn from logs taken out along the Big Knife Creek. It was in this home that their seven children were born; Mabel, Simon, John, Otto, Bert, Alvin and a baby girl that died in infancy. Ole made the little coffin and she was buried in the Bethany Church Cemetery.

The Stanvik children all walked to Ibsen school a mile and a half away until the boys were old enough

to handle a horse. Here they learned to speak the English language besides the regular subjects of reading, writing and arithmetic. They had some very good teachers but most of them were there for only one term.

In 1924 Ole had a new home built with more, much needed space. Church Services and Sunday School was held in the homes then. The Ladies' Aid and auction sales of their handwork were also held in the homes with coffee and lunch served after the sale. They needed money to support their church efforts then too. Even after the Church was built in Donalda the homes were quite often used until cars replaced horses. Ole and Marie were members and staunch supporters of the Sharon Lutheran Church and their family each in turn were included through confirmation.

They had an alarming mishap on their way home from the Church in Donalda one evening after a Missionary Meeting. Just as they started down the hill north of town, the tongue on the democrat broke. It was a two seated democrat and they had taken Aunt Carrie and her two girls, Maude and Lorna with them. Ole was driving and when he heard the snap he jumped to try to get hold of the team. Mabel jumped too but fell striking her head and was unconscious. The democrat upset into the ditch onto some small Willow Trees, with the rest of the passengers underneath it and the horses gone. Where? they really didn't know as their concern was for the family.

Simon, Bert and Johnny were in the single buggy coming along behind them as was Mr. Eilert Knudtson in his car. Mabel was put into the car and they took her back to town to Dr. Jackson, where she soon regained consciousness. They went back to the hill helping the others into the car taking the bruised and trembling group home. It was getting dark by this time and too late to search for the frightened horses. The next morning Ole and one of the boys found



Ole Stanvik breaking land with four oxen. Two oxen belonged to his brother Peter.



Ole Stanvik Family. L. to R. John, Mother (Marie) holding Bert, Mabel, Otto, Father (Ole), Simon. 1918.

them up the valley around the hill in some bushes. There were no fences through the valley then.

Ole hauled all his grain by team and wagon or sleigh. He also hauled their coal from the Calvin and Wilkinson mines. Most of the time they would take two outfits, wagons or sleighs, whichever the weather and roads would permit and make the most of the trip. They would usually stop at the Larson home at the top of the hill on their way home where they were welcomed with some hot coffee and a snack while the horses rested. From there they travelled across country to get away from the hills to make the trip easier for the horses with their loads.

Ole was a true pioneer and loved farming which he did only with horses. He retired at the age of sixty, puttering around the place with a few chores, letting the sons take over the heavier duties of farming. Ole passed away in February of 1960 at the age of 84 and was laid to rest in the Bethany Cemetery, north of Donalda.

Marie Stanvik stayed on the home place with Mabel and Alvin. She kept busy with a craft that had been a very great part of her life over the years, which was her knitting. She would wash, card and spin the wool that she would knit into socks, mitts and sweaters for her family. She knit by hand their underwear when they were small and their other wollen garments. It was a happy event when she purchased a knitting machine that could speed up the process that had been so time consuming. It was called a "Money Maker" but to her it was a time saver. Every winter she would turn out many pairs of mitts and socks.

She had a bout with cancer when she was eighty-two years of age but completely recovered from the affliction and lived on with Mabel's care and companionship until she was eighty-nine and a half years of age. She was also put to rest in the Bethany Cemetery in April of 1970.

Mabel Stanvik

Mabel was born at the home place, June 21, 1911. The eldest of the family and the only daughter. She went to Ibsen school, treasuring the friendship of her girl friends. After completing her education there she went to Olds Agriculture School, where she took a course in Home Economics. She found this very interesting.

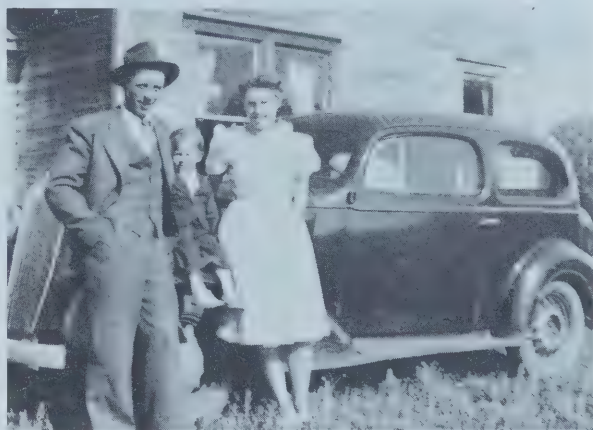
She loves gardening and flowers are one of her hobbies in-doors and out, in her colorful flower beds and her many varieties of house plants.

Mabel has been an active member in the church since girlhood, as well as the Ladies' Aid. She enjoys handicrafts, especially embroidery and crocheting. She still lives in their home on the homestead, cooking and keeping house for her youngest brother Alvin.

Simon Stanvik

Simon was born October 2, 1912 on his father's farm north east of Donalda, the eldest son of Ole and Maria Stanvik. He attended school at Ibsen and as he grew older helped his father farm. He started farming on his own in 1933.

On November 1, 1935 he married Gladys Banta of Spruce Coulee district. They lived on the farm known as "Uncle Ivors", which Simon rented from his father. This farm overlooked the beautiful Meeting Creek valley with Donalda beyond, and was given to Simon by his father when he retired from farming.



Simon and Gladys Stanvik with Roger 1940.

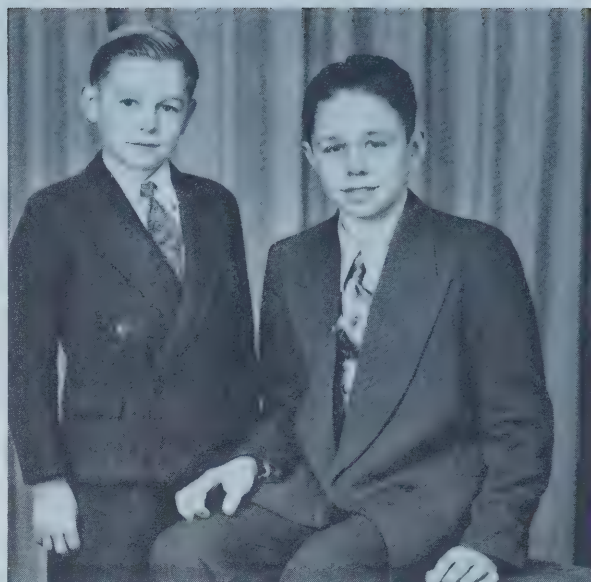
Simon and Gladys lived here for eleven years and their two sons were born here. In 1945 Simon bought two quarters of Canadian Pacific Railway land adjoining his farm and a new house was built on this land close to Donalda in 1946. Simon, Gladys and

boys moved into their new house just before Christmas of that same year.

Both boys attended school in Donalda. Roger, the eldest, was killed in an accidental shooting in 1952 at the age of 14. A tragic event which left a great impact on this little family.

Gary married Lucille Holladay, second daughter of Bob and Lucy Holladay also of Donalda in 1964. They now reside in Peace River and have two girls, Barbara and Lee-Ann.

In 1939, Simon bought a small truck and started his own trucking business, which grew each year and soon he found it necessary to obtain a larger truck. Each time a new truck was bought it was bigger until he finally had a three ton truck. He hauled grain, coal and livestock for farmers in the district for many years, also coal for the Donalda Hotel, Creamery and school. He helped Bob Holladay with his livestock buying business for years.



Roger and Gary Stanvick 1952.



Leona, Dale, Roger and Harvey Stanvik, 1940.

In 1967, Simon and Gladys sold their farm and moved to Salmon Arm, British Columbia. Simon was employed with Salmon Arm County for awhile and then he found employment with the Harveststore Silo Co. of Edmonton, who were building silos near Enderby, British Columbia for the Mennonite families. This job took him back to Alberta, so they moved back, settling in Edmonton in 1969. Gladys worked in a nursing home on their return to Edmonton. In 1970 they both went to Inuvik, North West Territories, where they were employed by the MacKenzie Hotel.

A very interesting year was spent above the arctic circle, but they moved back to Edmonton in 1972 to be nearer their family. They both quite agree with the saying "If you ever live in the north, you want to return."

Simon worked again for the Harveststore Silo Co. after returning from the north for one year, then he took the job as caretaker in the apartment block where they live.

Gladys returned to her nursing home duties. She has worked as a nursing assistant for the Good Samaritan Society for eight years.

Working and living in different parts of the country left them with an "itchy foot" and they travel as much as time allows. Visiting their family in the beautiful town of Peace River is one of their delights.

Gladys and Simon were avid dancing fans and almost every week would find them dancing with friends in the Donalda Community Hall or some adjoining town. They were both members of the Donalda Curling Club. They are members of the Sharon Lutheran Church and Gladys was a member of the ladies aide for a number of years.

Roger and Gary were active in all sports, curling, baseball and they were members of the 4-H club. Although the family have been away from Donalda for 12 years, it is still "home" to them.

John Stanvick Family Story

John was born Sept. 19th, 1913 on his father's (Ole Stanvik's) homestead. He lived here at his parental home, assisting with the farm work until 1936 when he married Rosa Banta, the eldest daughter of Alpha and Ray Banta.

They started their life together on the Peter Stanvik homestead, where they raised their five children. Leona and Lloyd started school at Ibsen, and when it

closed down they were bussed into Donalda where they took their education along with their younger brothers and sister.



John Stanvick Family, Loren, Linda, Rosa, John and Lloyd. Lester and Leona standing behind.

Leona married Gerry Konschuh and lived in Donalda where Gerry worked as a mechanic and then ran the Donalda Service Station. Gerry sold this station and moved to Stettler, where Leona went back to work in the same shoe store she had worked in before her marriage. Gerry is still working as a mechanic.

Their children, Wade and Sherry are going to high school and also working part time.

Lloyd and Carol (nee Zeigler of Red Willow) and their boys, Brent and Trevor live at Red Deer. The boys are going to school there and Lloyd works as a welder for Canadian General Transit Co. Ltd. of Red Deer. Lloyd spent some time in the Navy (1962-1965) training and learning this trade before his marriage.

Lester and Maryanne (nee Brown of Bassano) have two daughters, Sandra and Kimberly, and have moved frequently until recently when they settled in Savage, Montana. Here Sandra attends school and Lester works the area with a Seismograph outfit and crew.

Loren and Judy (nee Howard of Stettler) and son Jason and new daughter Jaime live at Donalda where Loren is in partnership in John's Vending.

Linda, the youngest is married to Randy Jones. They do mixed farming southeast of Donalda, and have a newly chosen baby son Steven.

In February of 1978 Rosa passed away after a lingering illness. John still continues to farm — gradually working toward retirement.

He recalls how things have changed in these few short years. Going to town on Saturday evenings was one of their regular outings. Meeting Simon, Gladys and Roger Stanvik at their corner, (and not owning a car as yet) walked the three miles into town across the valley, carrying Leona and Roger in their arms. They would sometimes take in a show or just visit with neighbors for a while in front of Vikses store. Then there was that walk home again.

Otto Stanvik Family

Otto, the third son of the Ole Stanvik family, born at his parent's home April 3rd, 1914, went to school at Ibsen with the other brothers and sisters, helping out with the farming at home. Then working out assisting other farmers in the Edberg area before he settled on his own farm north of Ibsen school, where he and Beatrice (nee Nordvie) started to raise their family.

They moved into Donalda where their children attended school, and Otto was employed by the County of Stettler as a road grader operator for several years.

Otto passed away after a lingering illness in Edmonton in 1968.



Otto and Beatrice Stanvik. Harvey, Dale and Pat.

Their children are all grown and married with families of their own.

Harvey—A Shop Foreman for Boarder Paving in Red Deer, married Karen (nee Olstad) and their three

children Darren, Brenda and Krista (all in school) are living in Red Deer.

Dale — a shift foreman for Granisle Copper, his wife Muriel, an equipment operator for the same company, live at Granisle, B.C. with their three children Kell, Mary, and Debbie still attending school.

Pat and Harvey Church live in Red Deer, where Harvey is trainer specialist for Schlumberger; and their family, Calvin, Sheila and Bradly are all in school there.

Verna Lee and Leo Matlock a foreman for Sterling Contractor of Grande Prairie also have a family of three, Kimberley, Kevin and Marnie, all in school and living at Grande Prairie.

Douglas is a mechanic for EDKO Construction of Vancouver. He and his wife Marg and their two children live in Vancouver.

Carla—A telephone operator and her husband John Webster, a Supervisor of Maintenance at Grande Prairie Regional College, have two girls “Deana and Leanne”, in school and are residing in Grand Prairie. Their Mother, Beatrice, is a janitor for Granisle Copper and her husband Jim Hansen a mill-right for this same Co., are also living at Granisle, B.C.

Bert Stanvik Family Story

Bert was born on his father’s homestead in the home where the rest of the family were born, on October 30, 1916 and received his education at Ibsen school too.

One of his first recollections of school was that when he came there, he started a conversation in the Norwegian language with Jack Cook, who of course couldn’t understand a word he was saying. Bert soon realized that he had more to learn than just readin’, writin’ and ’rithmetic.

School days for those at Ibsen were much like any other country school, as Bert and his friend Clarence Nordvie reminisce, boys wrestling to see which was the stronger, throwing snow balls at the girls and skating on thin ice. In summer playing ball and other games.

On completing his school there, he started farming at home, still using horses, the other brothers being gone and settled on places of their own.

Bert and Viola (nee Barber) were married on June 28, 1940. They settled on the home farm, back in the old house which had been renovated and redecorated and where Bert was born. When anyone asked Bert where they lived after their marriage he always replied (In the back house), as it was back behind their other home and the other farm buildings.

Everyone had at least a few chickens and turkeys, some had ducks and geese as well, and the adult birds were housed over the winter and the young birds were hatched out in the spring under the hens.

Whenever anyone had a surplus or if they wanted a little extra money, would hatch out more than for their own use and would kill the young birds and market them in the fall. Buying stations for turkeys and fowl would be set up in different areas and farmers could sell their birds, these stations would be open one day only each fall. This usually meant spending money for Xmas, for the women.

Bert farmed with horses until 1945 when he was able to get a small Case Tractor (what an advancement). A secondhand washing machine (gas powered) was also bought at an auction sale, what a joy. It could not be used indoors, because of the fumes,



Bert and Viola Family. Berty-Lynn, Rodney and Terry.

and the noise, but it was great just the same. By the fall Bert had built a porch onto the house so it could still be used on the warmer days during the winter.

Rosie and Gladys would make their weekly visits on wash day after that, an excuse for us to get together. Our neighbors wondered about it, they thought she must be the dirtiest woman in the world. “How would they know?”

Berty Lynn born June 18, 1943 and Rodney born February 13, 1945 had joined the family by then, so the machine was put to good use by us all.

New machinery of any type was hard to come by then, as most of the factories were changed over to the manufacturing of War needs.

Everyone had their own cows for milk and cream too, and every winter the cream separator always found its way back into the kitchen, which always

made extra mess and tracks, it was an exception if the chore of separating could be done without the milk overshooting the pail sometime or another during the operation.

Keeping the cream sweet in the winter in that home was no problem, in fact it would freeze in the can just left sitting in the corner of the kitchen. They were advised from the creamery that we would get better grade for our cream if we could keep it in the house and from freezing. Somehow the winters seemed colder then, but maybe it was the homes.

In 1947 we purchased the Sophie Nordvie homestead from Olaf and Sophie as they had moved into Donalda. So we busied ourselves, moving things over and remodelling and building, planting trees and getting settled.

It was on November 15, of 1948, that Terry came to join the family, a welcome chubby bundle to begin with, but later a little nuisance. He did not know how to play, he only messed things up, but he soon fit in and could farm in the dirt as well as the others.

It was still the days of the bath and path and Saturday afternoons were the bath, for everyone starting with the smallest, it went up, and it was always after they had been cleaned up that it seemed so important to get out where they could have the most fun.

There had been a project going on down in the hillside, they had been warned about digging back in too far and it was when Bert was in the wash tub that a couple of screaming boys came running to the house, "the hill has caved in on Berty Lynn", Bert jumped out of the tub—wrapped a towel around him and on second thought pulled his pants on, ran out, jumped over the fence, came to the place to find her sitting with her legs covered with dirt, when he took hold of her to pull her out she protested "don't, don't my boots are coming off", she could not leave them under there.

Their father felt like spanking them all, making him think it was such a tragedy when all the concern was for the boots, but he was happy everything was fine.

They all went to Sunday School in Donalda and finished off with confirmation and then helping out with the teaching at the Sharon Lutheran Church.

They went by bus to school in Donalda where they got their education, finishing off in Stettler, Red Deer and Edmonton.

It was after that their mother was able to start new hobbies, she had plenty, with the others without

adding to them, but pottery sounded so very interesting, how could she resist; Tri-Chem, knitting, crocheting, sewing and other handicrafts were just as interesting and it was all useful in many respects. The Ladies' Church Group, our Lutheran Church Women became so involved in quilting, and there were other areas that needed attention from time to time, where a helpful hand is needed.

Then a Weavers Club was organized and weaving will be very interesting too whenever we get to stay with it long enough to enjoy it.

To all of us, friends are the backbone and our everyday mainstay. We could not possibly manage without them. There is no friend like an old friend, and the way time flies, new friends are soon old friends.

Family members are soon gone leaving memories of the happy times together, but fortunate are the parents whose lives are enriched, as one by one they return to be near once again, bringing with them added joys to share.

Berty Lynn(Stanvik) Vandenbrink (daughter of Bert and Viola Stanvik)

Berty Lynn was born in Camrose on June 18, 1943.

She started school in Donalda, Mr. Stenlund was her bus driver until Ibsen School closed down and there was a regular bus route past here. Miss Lawson was her first teacher. She completed school here at Donalda as far as it went, then finished in Stettler.

She went to Red Deer, where she and some of her classmates worked at Deer Home, she also worked at P. T. S. (Provincial Training School) and later in a Nursing Home in Calgary and Edmonton.

She married Dirk Vandenbrink of Red Deer in December, 1964. They settled in Calgary where Dirk was employed by the City with the Ambulance Service, later becoming a Paramedic, working throughout the different areas of Alberta and Northern British Columbia.

They have two daughters, Shelley-Lynn, born in Calgary August 2, 1967 and Shawna-Lee also born in Calgary, on December 22, 1971.

Shelley started school in Airdrie and Calgary, continuing in Donalda after her parents moved their home here, in 1975. Both girls enjoy their school and teachers here, the sports, ball games and teams they've been with. They're both interested in music and are taking Piano lessons, they also like all types of handicraft.

They attend the Sharon Lutheran Sunday School,

Shawna having a perfect attendance since she started when they came here to Donalda.

Berty Lynn has also been active in the Sunday School, Church and L.C.W. She enjoys doing pottery and is a member of the Club. She is interested in all other types of handicrafts, especially crocheting as well as sewing, quilting and liquid embroidery.

Her plants, yard and garden in turn, getting her attention.

Rodney Stanvik

Rodney Stanvik was born in Camrose on February 13, 1945. As a boy enjoyed his trap lines in winter, catching weasels. Fishing in the summer, Perch being his favorite, but the camping of course was the best part of it all.

He went to Red Deer where he employed at a trailer manufacturing company a while, a parts man for one of the Implement Dealers and then for an Automotive Company too, for awhile.

He decided to go to Edmonton where he was Ice Maker for the Derrick Club in the winter and grounds keeper for them during the summer.

He moved to Camrose where he became involved in a Bike and Sport shop that developed into Easy Riders. They sold sports accessories and snow cruisers along with Kawasaki Bikes and won an all expense paid trip and tour of the factories in Japan.

He had been kept busy completing the building they had started when he decided to sell it and his partnership and move back to Donalda, where he bought out the Donalda Service Business.

He built a new building on the site, where he has a Key Lock System Service Station and Car Wash.

He then started the Fibreglass Plant becoming a partner in the fabricating of Fibreglass Products and bought out Don Lawson's work shop (the old John Deere Building) then the Weavers Hut and lots (the old Real Estate Building) and later the old Donalda Hall and Theatre Building having them all renovated and equipped for the fabricating of Fibreglass Products.

His wife Valerie (nee Stolee) is teller in the Bank of Commerce in Donalda. They have a daughter, Gina and live in Donalda. Arlene and Robbie, his two older children live in Red Deer with their mother.

Terry Stanvik

Terry Stanvik was born in Camrose on November 15, 1948. Terry loved the out doors, being alone after Berty-Lynn and Rodney started school, he would spend most of the day rambling in the hills, even

down around the creek, (against his parents wishes). When he was scolded for running away, or sneaking away, he always said, "he hadn't run away, he was just hunting."

So starting school was like putting him in jail, but he eventually became accustomed to it and when he had finished in Donalda he went to Red Deer and then to Edmonton where he completed his training in 1972 as a Plumber and Gas Fitter working in the Industrial Pipe Fitting Occupation in Northern Alberta.

He married Kathy (nee Schultz) of Bashaw in 1974, after she completed her course in Edmonton at Alberta College as Medical Dental Secretary.

They lived in Edmonton for a year while Terry completed a job near Jasper and Kathy was employed as clerk-typist for the Government.

They came to Donalda in 1975 where they bought their home and Terry has his Donalda Plumbing and Gas Fitting business between employment at the Alberta Power Plant near Forestburg and the Joffe Gas Plant.

Kathy works part-time at Eric's Amusements, she enjoys handwork as a hobby and loves gardening and flowers, as well as playing ball with the girls' ball team.

They also do hobby farming, caring for their cattle and a quarter section of land in the valley below Donalda.

Alvin Stanvik

Alvin was born on April 21, 1922 at his home, as were his brothers and sisters before him. He too, went to Ibsen school and then to Donalda school.

He joined the Armed Forces in 1943 in a Heavy Duty Anti Air Craft Regiment. He took his training at Camrose and Halifax and was posted to Sidney, Nova Scotia for one year. He then went to England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany where he was with the Occupation Force but before they reached action the war came to a conclusion and the boys were sent home and discharged.

On his return home he went into chicken ranching but after a few years gave up this venture and has been doing mixed farming since.

He has been an active member in the Sharon Lutheran Church and helps out wherever possible.

Alvin remains on the home farm and his sister Mabel makes her home there too.

The Tom Vikse Family by Emil Vikse

My family settled in the Donalda area about six years before I was born, so I can comment about the first years only from stories I was told.

My father, Tom Vikse, his wife Hilda and their four children, John, Arthur, Minnie and Ben, who was born in January 1, 1902, came to Alberta in 1902. The following children were born at Donalda; Annie, Amalia, Emil, Victor and Tillie.

They lived in a tent until they got the first log cabin with its leaky sod roof built. I can still remember them taking off the sod and poles and putting on a shingled roof. This was perhaps in 1915 or 1916. Before that I remember them building a proper log house, which remains on the original location.

Although my father had five horses when they moved from the Dakotas they soon died of swamp fever. They then resorted to oxen with which they broke the sod for farming.

In my young days we had a lot of hogs and cattle so our meat was salt pork and dried beef. Wheat was hauled thirty miles to Stettler to be ground into flour for the endless loaves of bread to feed our large family. We ate lots of rabbits as well.

The first school was Norbo, which was some miles northwest of us. Then Ibsen School was built about a mile and a half southwest from our homestead. It was the only school I attended. My first teacher was Doc Riddell; then Mr. Scholardt, Constance Stolee and others followed.

The only church was Bethany Lutheran, which is still there. The first minister I remember was Mr. Klyve, with his pinch-on glasses.

The first doctor I can recall was Dr. Wall. He lived in Donalda, which was seven and a half miles from our place. I can recall no nurses in the area in my youth.

Our closest neighbors were the Ole Broughtons, a half mile east; my uncle, Alfred Berg, a half mile north, and R. J. Stolee, a half mile southwest.

My sister Minnie belonged to a church girls sewing circle and mother was a member of the Ladies Aide.

We were eleven in the family and we had two bachelors who made their home with us for a time. Hans Solomonson was a big man and he had the peculiarity of taking a large bowl, filling it with every edible thing on the table, stirring it all up and devouring it. The awful smelling cheese they used to get from the Meeting Creek Creamery, topping off the mixture, was the living end. He also used to run the steam engine, and he spent his winters grinding feed in our yard. People would come as far as twenty miles with four horse teams, and many had to spend the night.

I heard my family say that one year they butchered twenty-five hogs. I remember the men sleeping on the kitchen floor.

The other bachelor, Hans Solheim, was a carpenter. He died of tuberculosis in 1917 or 1918.

Most of my family are gone. Mother died in 1918, Dad in 1947. My oldest brother, John, passed away in 1963 at 67 years of age; Arthur in 1970 at 72 years; Minnie in 1974, aged 74 years; Annie in the late 1920's, and Victor in 1964 at 54 years.

Mollie and Tillie both live in California, Ben lives in Calgary and I live in Bowden, Alberta, where my wife and I are retired. We have two daughters and four grandchildren.

Thomas Westgarde Family

Thomas Westgarde came to Donalda in 1905 from Minnesota, U.S.A., and from near Rorps, Norway in 1904 at the age of 16 years.

He married Mathilde Johnson, one of Peter Johnson's daughters, in 1911.

Thomas homesteaded the north east quarter of section 16, where he built a two story house, a small log barn made of poplar poles, and a small granary where they sought shelter when the violent winds came up.

During the winters, Thomas worked in a coal mine in the banks of Meeting Creek. He farmed in



Thomas and Mathilde Westgarde, Ethel and Teddy.

the summer, and bought his first team of black horses from Bert Irving.

As for clothing, Tilda made shirts for Tom from dyed flour sacks, as well as underwear for herself.

Their neighbors were Ole and Mr. Jacobson, Tom's step father and mother on the west, Jack Matheson to the north-east, and to the south-east Chris Henrikson.

Five children were born to Thomas and Tilda. Alice who died when she was six months old, then Ethel, Theodore, and Marion. Edward was born after they moved to British Columbia, in January, 1920.

In the spring, Thomas went back to Alberta, bringing with him a carload of livestock, machinery, and furniture. He built a fine log house and barn in Perow, but died suddenly in 1924 of a cerebral hemorrhage at the age of thirty-seven years.

Mathilde, now eighty-five years old lives in Kelowna, British Columbia and enjoys bowling, gardening, and walking. Ethel and family live in Kelowna also. Theodore died in 1944 at the age of twenty-nine (at Perow) leaving a wife and five children. Marion and Edward and their families live at Houston, ten miles west of where Thomas settled in 1920.

The Whamond Family

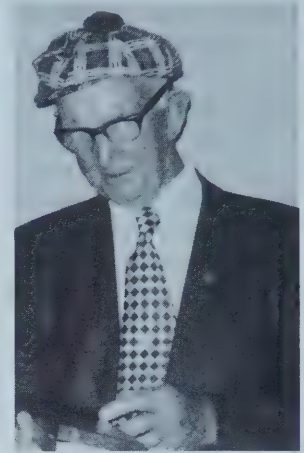
Arch G. Whamond, Rhoda my wife, and my son Archie, and Mary our daughter, left Angus, Scotland and came to Canada in April, 1927. We came over in the Montcalm; it was a very rough voyage. It took us just five days to get to St. John; we landed in Donalda a week later. We were met by Joe Cook with horse and wagon — the roads were so thick with mud we had to walk up the Donalda hill. We stayed with the Cooks for several days and had to wait until Jack Mattewson moved out of our house. When we did get there, we soon found out that the house was moving with bed bugs. I wrote to the D.V.A. and he sent a man to disinfect the house. We had to stay out for twenty-four hours, so we stayed the night in a granary. I worked for Joe Cook for ten days cleaning out the frozen manure from the barn, corral, hauling hay and grubbing. My first work cheque was \$6.00 for ten days.

In May, 1927 there were two bad blizzards. While I was working, Rhoda had to go out in the brush and haul home dead trees for firewood. I should have stayed at home and done that.

My sister and family came to Canada in 1926. She died before we got down to Big Valley to see her. They had a girl about the same age as our daughter Mary, so we took her home and kept her for several years. Her name was also Mary, so we called our daughter May.

In the early thirties it seemed as if I had the only car in our district that could go as far as Stettler or Camrose. Several times I had to quit work and take

someone to either place — sometimes to the doctors or just shopping. When the women in the district were expecting babies, I was the one who took them to Stettler, day or night. They would let me know a few weeks ahead of time. One night after ten o'clock, a buggy came full speed into the yard. I had to take Mrs. Estacaille to Stettler right away. I had to stay until the baby was born, so her husband could see the baby. We got back to Donalda at four o'clock in the



Arch Whamonds eightieth birthday. Someone sent the tam from Scotland to one of his grandchildren. They put it on him for the picture.

morning, and another lady was ready to go. I had to take her up north to Mrs. Mickalson's. Then I had to take Norman back to Stettler to see his wife and baby. We got back home, did the chores, and had something to eat. Alan Stoit came in, he kept talking until after ten o'clock. I told him I had to go to bed but he said, "No, you have to take me over to George Bowies tonight". He lived across the river and it was raining real heavy. With the dirt roads, the rain, and half asleep I didn't like doing it, but I did, skidding all over the roads — but I did get home okay. One time I did get one dollar for about a two hundred mile trip.

I was on the school board and one of the neighbors asked me if he could have the hauling of the coal for the school. I told him it would be okay if he kept the coal bin full. It was very cold and the coal was getting low. I sent him notes with his children at school, but he wasn't going to haul coal in this kind of weather. I left the next morning (forty-five degrees below) at four o'clock. There were about twelve sleighs that had stayed the night. I got home at seven that night.

When the war broke out I joined the Army. Archie joined the Army when he got old enough and May the Airforce. Rhoda (my wife), Lila, Dorothy, Roy, and Rhoda moved off the farm into Donalda. They lived there one year, then moved to Camrose where I was stationed. At the end of the war we moved back to the farm.



The Whamonds 1968: Mrs. Rhoda Whamond, Dorothy, Lela, Roy, Norman Whamond (visiting from Scotland), Arch Whamond, Archie, Rhoda, May.

In 1958 we sold the farm to Archie and Edna, and moved to Red Deer. I retired when I left the farm, but I soon had all kinds of work offered me, fixing inside stores and houses, I guess I retired four or five times after coming to Red Deer. Archie sold the farm to John Pearson in 1973 and moved to Red Deer, where he still resides. Rhoda and I made two trips back to Scotland to visit our families before Rhoda passed away in 1969. I have been back several times since. Dorothy and Rhoda live in Red Deer, Lila in Calgary, May on a farm by Elberg, and Roy at Whitecourt.

Archie and Edna Whamond

Archie Whamond was born in Kirrimuir, Scotland on June 13th, 1920. He came to Donalda with his parents and oldest sister in 1925. The family settled on a homestead in the Ibsen district, north of Donalda.

Archie took all of his schooling at Ibsen. After finishing school, he worked at home on the farm and did the various jobs in the neighborhood during hay-ing and harvest time.

He enlisted in the Army in 1940 and served overseas as a Corporal in the Provost Corp. until the end of the war.

Following his discharge from the Army after the second World War, he started working at Swifts Packing Plant in Edmonton in the Produce Department. It was while he was working there, that he met Edna Irene Scott. Edna was born at Millet, Alberta, in November, 1921.

Archie and Edna were married October 25th, 1947 in Edmonton, and continued to work there during the winter. In the spring they moved to their own farm in the Ibsen district.



Archie and Edna's Silver Wedding in 1972.

In April, 1949, their first son, Kenneth Miles Archibald was born in Camrose.

The year Kenneth started school, Ibsen was closed, so he went by bus to Donalda. In later years, he went to Stettler, and finally to Red Deer, where he took plumbing and pipefitting. After a few local jobs, he started working for Industrial Power in Edmonton. Following his apprenticeship, he went to Fredericton, New Brunswick, to work. While there, he met Elizabeth (Wandless) Spencer. They were married in Fredericton in June, 1976. They now reside in Sherwood Park and have two sons, Peter and Scott.

Wendy Maxine came along in October, 1950. She took her schooling in Donalda and Stettler, taking business administration. After completing school, she worked in the office in Zellers, Edmonton, and then in the Aberhart Hospital. She later transferred to the University Hospital in Edmonton, working in the X-ray department until April, 1979. She was married in August, 1974, in Red Deer, to George Tinant of Clyde, Alberta. Wendy and George live on an acreage north of St. Albert. George works for an oil company. They have one son, Blair.

Randy Wayne was born in Camrose in April, 1953. After his schooling in Donalda and Stettler, where he took woodwork and building construction, he moved to Edmonton. There he apprenticed building modular homes for Facto Industries. From there he went to Calgary and worked for V.I.P. modular homes.

Randy and Luella Maves were married in Red Deer in June, 1975. The first year they lived in Calgary where Randy continued his building, and Luella worked in a branch of the Bank of Montreal.

They built their own house in Calgary and had it moved back to the Maves farm, between Donalda and Forestburg. They both help out on the farm and Randy has set up his own business under the name of Ran-ell Builders. Whenever she can, Luella joins Randy working on a lot of his jobs, and has surprised a lot of people with her hammer swinging knowhow.

Diana Lynn, youngest of the four children, was born in Camrose in July, 1960. She took her schooling in Donalda and Stettler. When Archie and Edna sold their farm to John Pearson in August, 1973, Diana moved with them to Red Deer, where she completed her schooling. Diana at present resides in Edmonton, where she is employed at the Unversity Hospital.

Archie is presently employed by the County of Red Deer School Division, in Maintenance. This covers a variety of duties and includes all schools in the County of Red Deer. Edna works part time in a Fabric Store in the Parkland Mall.

During the many years the family lived at Donalda, they were all active in the community. The children all belonged to the Rosalind 4-H Beef Club for a number of years. Kenneth and Randy also took part in Cubs and Scouts. Wendy and Diana were in Brownies, Girl Guides and C.G.I.T.

Archie was a member of the Foresters. He took part in all Farmers Union meetings, attending the yearly conventions in Edmonton. He was active in the Ibsen Community Centre and was president of Donalda and Community Council for several years, prior to moving to Red Deer.

Edna took an active part in the Ibsen Community Centre, Donalda Coulee Ceramists, and was president of Sharon Lutheran Ladies Aid for a number of years.

They still enjoy going back to Donalda for special occasions to visit with old friends.

Norbo School District



Norbo School District

by Berit Hagen

The settlers living in and around this district in the early 1900's were mostly of Scandinavian origin so hence the name "Norbo". This was derived from 'Nor' meaning north, and 'bo' meaning to live. The first meeting to organize was held on April 13, 1905., with chairman P. N. Johnson, secretary O. E. Olsen, and treasurer S. L. Akland, who chose the site, being N.E. 4-43-18-w4.

Mr. Henry Johnson built it for \$125.00 in 1906. Then in 1910, the building was moved to a new site one mile north, and a half mile east on land donated by Mr. Christ Sorenson.

The building was torn down in 1949, and the lumber was taken to Rosalind for construction of buildings around the old school. Then a more modern building, the old Centennial School was set on the Norbo site. The School was closed in 1954 and the children were transported by bus to Meeting Creek.

The first teacher Miss Clara Mary May Kinnips, from Iowa, came in 1906 and taught for two years. The following is a list of succeeding teachers; Mr. Bass Wickwere, Mr. Strong, Mr. C.C. Porter, Mr. Chickaneau, David Hunter, Robert Thompson, Samuel Steele, Ole Standal, Ruth Peterson, Madeleine Crowley, Dorothy Mason, Agnes Stolee, Barbara Hutchinson, Annie Vikse, Alice Stolee, Clara Jerstad, Blanche Hanson, Alice Hagen, Florence Magnuson, Judith Knudtson, Mirrell Nelson, Thelma MacPherson, Barbara Leard, Kay Therrian, Cecile Wilfert, Dorothy Dingman, Lorraine Holte, Ellen Mortenson, Donald Green, Alice Johnson and Bernice Strom.



Picture of Norbo School Class of Feb. 14, 1933. Back row — Foch Blouin, Conald Vikse, Ervin Kneeland, Doris Johnson, Walter Olsen, Oliver Hagen, Vila Olsen, Caroline Anderson, Edwin Anderson. Center row — Charlotte Vikse, Lorette Blouin, Mary Shea, Hazel Kneeland, Violet Blomgren, Catherine Shea, Evelyn Anderson, Annie Hagen, Helen Hagen. Front row — Anne Marie Johnson, Wallace Anderson, Gerald Ganton, Marcel Blouin, Marvin Kneeland, Arnt Anderson, Pat Shea, Helene Blouin.



1948-49 Class. Back Row — Harvey Vikse, Marion Vikse, Alice Johnson, Connie Olsen, Luverne Anderson. Middle Row — David Stolee, Louise Woods, Kenny Woods, Carol Olsen, Marlene Olstad, Florence Collin. Front Row — Donnie Anderson, Wayne Anderson, Tommy Kennedy, Marlene Johnson, Valerie Olsen, Janice Olstad, Leone Woods, Arlene Vikse.



1950 Harvey Vikse, Valerie Olsen, Miss Stolee, Muriel Kent, Carol Olsen, Marlene Olstad, David Stolee, Edith Kaufmann, Roger Olsen, Leonard Kent, Florence Collin, Tommy Kennedy in front.



Final Class at Norbo — 1954. Back row — Karen Johnson, Irene Anderson, Marilyn Vikse, Doug Hagen. Middle Row — James Johnson, Voltrod Hulsabush, Yvonne Anderson, Ray Kneeland, Leone Woods, Roger Olsen, Clare Woods, Shirley Kneeland. Front Row — Louise Woods, Valerie Olsen, Arlene Vikse, Marlene Johnson, Donald Anderson, Kenneth Woods, Wayne Anderson.



Mirrel Nelson.



1945 Class. Back Row — Audrey Bergum, Berniece Vikse, Harry Collin, Wilbur Blomgren, Inez Johnson, Maviin Vikse, 2nd row — Harvey Vikse, Margaret Collin, Marion Vikse, Phyllis Broughton, Alice Johnson. Front — Carol Olsen, Ken Wold, Luverne Anderson, Florence Collin, Wayne Anderson.



Dorothy Mason, 1922.



Florence Magneson.

Alice Hagen.



Judith Knudson.



Thelma McPherson and Husband.



Alice Stolee.



Barbara Hutchinson with Charlotte and Donald Vikse.

Annie (Vikse) Bergum.





NORBO SCHOOL - Left to right: Alma Jerstad, Betsy Jerstad, Sina Jerstad, Helen Johnson, Tina Johnson, Einar Quesseth, Mary Sorenson, Conrad Vikse, Ida Auckland, Louis Auckland, John Auckland, Ben Auckland, Constance Stolee, Agnes Stolee, Hannah Stolee, Minnie Vikse, John Vikse, Arthur Vikse, Ben Vikse.



EARLY PIONEERS - F. Stahler, A. Sorenson, Ovid Blouin
S. Sorenson.

Norbo school.

Norbo School by Mrs. B. A. Matthews

I have fond and vivid memories of my term of teaching at Norbo. It was in January of 1924 that I got off the train at Donalda to be met by Mr. Theodore Hagen and driven out to the Norbo District. I was 18 at the time and not long out of Camrose Normal School. Having been raised on a farm at Duhamel, I

enjoyed being in a rural district. I was taken to the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Stolee, where I was to board and received the warmest of welcomes from these fine folks. The district was largely Norwegian, and a finer group of people it would be hard to find. As was usual in rural schools, I had nine grades as well as two older pupils taking Grade X by correspondence, and I must say that my disciplinary prob-

lems were very few. We usually walked to school, about a mile through the trees and across a creek, though in bad weather one of the boys drove us in a buggy.

We planned a picnic for May 24th, with sports and an outdoor program, the children joining wholeheartedly in the preparations. Then on May 24th we woke to find an inch of snow on the ground! However, we merely postponed the festivities, and enjoyed them just as much in early June. During the warm weather the children and I often took our lunches outdoors, in a lovely spot by the creek.

The young folks of the Stolee family adopted me completely, and I was welcomed in the community youth gatherings, choir and Church activities. I don't know how much the pupils learned that term, but I certainly gained a great deal of knowledge! The one-room rural schools were a headache in many ways, but they were the best of training grounds for co-operation and self-reliance. I often hear the names of former pupils on the radio — Stolee, Vikse, Hagen and others and am most proud to have had a small part in their training.

From Norbo I went to Cadogan, where I met and married Bernard Matthews. We moved to Hardisty where we have lived ever since. We had five sons and a daughter. Frank, now with an oil company in Cairo, Egypt. Charles, who died in a plane crash while serving in the R.C.A.F. Howard, an oil well consultant in Red Deer. Bill, a pipe-line worker living in Hardisty, Dick, a county mechanic living in Sedgewick and Barbara Rose, who died in a car accident when she was 21. We celebrated our 50th anniversary in July of 1975, and are very proud of our ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Reminiscences of a Busy Life—Life in the Norbo Area

by Sam Steele

Before my teaching term was ended at Ferry Point school, I was advised by a kind neighbour to drive over to Norbo School. Their present teacher was leaving and a new teacher was required immediately. On Saturday, I proudly hitched Paddy to the buggy and blithely set out to explore new trails. The distance to Norbo was about five miles, but finding the members of the board was the problem. I finally located Oscar Olsen, the chairman of the board and Chris Sorenson, another member. After a short discussion with these men as to duties, salary, etc., I was hired on the spot. Oscar Olsen was a Norwegian, a prominent farmer in the neighbourhood, and blessed with a good wife and family of daughters. Chris Sorenson was a Dane, his good wife was of

Swedish descent. They were good to me, considerate in every way. The school sat on an acre of ground near the edge of a deep coulee.

Sorenson lived on a farm on the east side of the coulee and I remember stopping the horse at the crest of the hill and looking down with some misgivings at the steep decline and wondering whether a horse and buggy could actually make the descent. Up to the present time this was the most terrifying hill I had encountered and the grade was so narrow with a sheer drop on one side with no protective rail whatsoever. After carefully assessing the situation, I tied the lines to the buggy and gingerly led the horse all the way down. As luck would have it, no one beheld this maneuver. Any spectator could be pardoned for thinking to himself 'What is this crazy Irishman up to anyway?' Regaining some of my courage when we reached the bottom of the coulee, I hopped into the buggy and drove Paddy up the other hill quite safely and reached the farm of Chris Sorenson.

Next Monday I collected all my belongings, loaded them into the buggy, and said farewell to all the Ericsons who had been so kind to me. When settling my board, I offered to pay for the keep of my horse while there, but Mr. Ericson would not hear of such a thing and said he was only too glad to be of service.

Away I drove to the Norbo district to have a good look at the school and to arrange for board at the Hagen homestead, where dwelt Johnnie Hagen and sister. I found that almost the whole district was inhabited by Norwegians, an intelligent, kindly and industrious people. They were a class of people who put great stock in good living, religion and education. The children were well-behaved and teaching became a challenge and a pleasure.

There were Stolees, Vikses, Olsons, Haugstads, Hagens, Johnsons, Sorensons, Russels, etc. all playing their part in the life of the school. There was Agnes, Annie, Esther, Bertha, Geneva, Hannah, Lenora, Jacob, Oscar, Alfred, Selmer, Edwin, Bert, Ingeborg, Bernice, Vernice and others that have escaped my memory. Each looked one straight in the eye when addressed, and no effort on his or her part was too great in the line of duty. We won't dwell on the few exceptions to this pattern of behaviour that occasionally cropped up.

We were in October now and the weather was quite chilly in the mornings. There was a broken pane in one of the windows which allowed cold air to enter to the discomfiture of some of the pupils. I had intended to remedy the matter but Donalda was ten miles away, the nearest town where glass could be obtained and this was the middle of the week. At this

juncture my good fairy appeared in the person of Peter Stolee, the eldest of the Stolee family. He repaired the window and all was well. This was my first meeting with Peter and happily it was not the last. He was very much interested in education and we did not lack for matters to discuss, either then or for many years to come.

Not many days later, I was invited to visit the family and enjoyed their company around the dinner table.

Just going to and coming from school was a fascinating experience for the young. If they walked rather than rode, so much the better for then there was more to hear. The horses also enjoyed the stroll, for they wandered all over nibbling at tufts of grass along the trail. In the spring the sloughs filled with water. Young gophers appeared for the first time. Flowers of every description dotted the landscape and it was up to the children to discover them. It was not unusual for them also to find a wild strawberry patch or even shrubs bearing saskatoons, cherries or cranberries. The wild berries were always welcome as fresh fruit was considered a luxury in those days. The students had more fun out of leisurely strolling home after school, watching a garter snake slither along, making an interesting pattern in the dust of the road than those of today riding home on a Honda motor bike.

Nearly all the grades were represented from Grade 1 beginners to Grade 8 — a happy and busy group with a programme of studies that left no time for dalliance by the teacher. If I remember correctly, Agnes Stolee was my only pupil in Grade 8 — a clever, conscientious pupil who could carry on by herself with a modicum of aid from the teacher. I encouraged her to try the Grade 8 departmental exams which were written by aspiring pupils each June. I am proud to relate that when the time came she was successful, becoming the first pupil in Norbo district to win that distinction. I don't know which of us, Agnes or myself, was the more elated. She continued in Norbo and under my supervision took her Grade 9 the next year.

There were the usual games in the schoolyard, and I always made a point of taking part in some of them, occasionally introducing new ones. We acquired a croquet set which provided much hilarious entertainment, especially when the balls were batted around with more enthusiasm than the science of the game warranted. The difficulty in the case of this game was the fact that not enough children could take part, consequently there was always a waiting list and often some disgruntled players.

Herman Olsen and his brother, because of their

distance from school, drove a pony and buggy. The horse usually pastured at the far end of the grounds while the buggy sat near the wood-shed. There was frequently in the buggy a large blanket for use by the boys when the weather grew colder. This circumstance led to the introduction of another game, and I must confess that I was the instigator. Seeing some boys playing with the blanket and recalling some of our high jinks in college days, I proceeded to demonstrate the game of blanket tossing. This idea was received with enthusiasm and a victim was chosen from a number of volunteers. I can still see in my mind's eye little Bernt Haugstad soaring up in the air to the delighted cheers and exclamations of the spectators. I realized at the time there could be danger in tossing a pupil too high, and this was accordingly forbidden, and as an added measure of safety, I always made a point of being present at these exercises, often holding the edge of the blanket myself.

But the big day came when we played our first basketball game. Peter, while talking to me later, averred that our yells, laughter and cheers could be heard distinctly at his home a distance of a mile or more from the school. He failed to realize that a game of basketball, where the whole school, big and little, is organized into two fiercely contending teams, was a red-letter event in the annals of any school. Anyway, noise or no, we contend that we had a glorious time.

The week previously, I had mentioned to the children my intention of constructing a basketball court. So I set to work, marking out the grounds, erecting two poplar poles, one on each end of the court, to which were attached rough boards, with barrel hoops fastened to the structures in lieu of baskets. This being accomplished, we were in a position to play the game and rouse the neighbourhood. Later I was able to procure a book of rules and proceed in orderly fashion. Captains were appointed who chose sides with the proper number of players on each side. At the beginning I often acted as both referee and coach, so gradually the children learned the rules, quickly gained both skill in passing and speed on the ground. As they became more expert and confident, I arranged some games with nearby schools where our players usually gave a good account of themselves.

The Stolees were always very kind and friendly to me. Peter introduced me to the young people in the district. He encouraged me to attend their church which was Norwegian Lutheran. The pastor conducted the service in Norwegian but I enjoyed the singing and also the company of the young people who all spoke in English. In winter we had skating

parties, mostly in some nearby slough, with the thermometer often hovering around the twenty degree mark, the stars twinkling in the immense dome of the heavens, so characteristic of winter nights in Alberta. With a fire on the beach to warm one's toes, a girl on one's arm, the bracing air and the skates flashing in the starlight, then we could say with Browning, "God's in His Heaven, All's right with the world."

I left the Hagen home at the end of the year 1913, and boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Holtz at their invitation. They had left Ericsons and now had their own home, a dwelling near the school. However, circumstances intervened and they were obliged to take a rented farm in another district. Then Chris Sorenson, in his abrupt and fiery way, came to the rescue. Why not erect a shack in the corner of his field which abutted the school grounds? No sooner said than done. He straightway rounded up the farmers in the school district. They formed a building bee, hauled lumber from Donalda and built a cabin, all in the course of a day. Holtz managed to obtain a secondhand stove, a bed of sorts and some crude furniture. This was added to later. I even had curtains on the windows. Thus I suddenly found myself a bachelor householder, free and independent. Ernie even bought me a pipe and a package of tobacco to keep me company in my long hours of study and contemplation. That's when I first began to smoke a pipe and the habit has remained to this day.

This was not such a lonesome life as might be expected, since I was busy with people all day, even though some were little people. For relaxation I usually took a walk after school, or ran down to the bottom of the coulee for a pail of water from the boxed-in spring, the source of our water supply. After supper I read books, and a newspaper when obtainable.

It is interesting to note here that my first intimation of the out-break of the war of 1914-18 was supplied in the school yard by one of my pupils, Bernice Olsen. I lost no time in obtaining a paper, in search of further war news. It is hard to realize in this day and age that we had neither radio nor television, and no telephones were yet installed in our town or district.

It was fortunate that there was a good selection of readable books in the school library and I certainly made good use of them. The only time when a shade of loneliness crept in was on weekends and I remember with what longing I awaited Monday morning with its herald of a new week of bustle and excitement attendant on my teaching duties that engaged my attention most of the day.

However, as I previously indicated, the people

were generous and appreciative and I enjoyed their hospitality on many occasions. Mr. and Mrs. Stolee treated me almost as one of the family and I was delighted to spend Christmas with them several times.

Peter Stolee often came for a visit at my cabin when we had long discussions on a variety of subjects. Conrad Vikse dropped in a few times. I always enjoyed a visit at Oscar Olsens. I was made welcome wherever I appeared. Mr. and Mrs. Chris Sorenson could not do enough for me. When I began house-keeping, they supplied milk and eggs and the good lady baked bread for me, Vernice Russell, her granddaughter, delivering the supplies on her way to school.

One spring we started school gardens. Chris Sorenson ploughed the patch; the seed was provided by the board. Then I got busy with stake and line to measure out a plot for each pupil in the school. In some cases we allotted two pupils to a plot, where one older and one little one worked side by side, the older aiding the younger. This venture was a decided success and in the fall we engaged a responsible person outside the district to act as judge of all the plots and prizes were given. The children were encouraged as well to plant gardens at their own homes. These were also judged.

Many years later, when teaching in Ottawa, I found that the Ottawa Public School Board conducted a system of home gardens for all pupils who cared to take part in the scheme.

I find it very difficult to tear myself away from Norbo and all its memories. Maybe it is my respect for the children and their parents. Maybe it is because they entered so readily into all my experiments, untried as some of them were. Maybe it represented for the first time a sense of freedom in the whole field of education, without the frills, rules, lock-step and glorification of standard forms. Perhaps there was a variety of reasons, but I have a long way to go in these reminiscences of my life, so must be on my way.

A few more memories, then I shall have to move to other fields. We formed a Boy Scout Troop and did all our scouting at school, especially at noon and after school. Our tramps in the surrounding area, the boys enjoyed. The coulee, right at our doorstep as it were, lent itself magnificently to our scouting. Often we had expeditions down the coulee in search of specimens, both botanical and mineral. On some days the whole school took part.

The children took special delight in taking part in concerts, both Christmas and otherwise. Some of my leading actors and actresses, I should like to name

here. They were Agnes Stolee, Esther Haugstad, Constance Stolee, Bertha Olsen, Geneva Olsen, Annie Vikse, Lenora Olsen, Jacob Stolee, Alfred Vikse, Selmer Stolee, the remainder of the children being in supporting roles. I beg to be excused if I have neglected anyone, but all this took place many, many years ago — 1914-1915. Today as I write, it is August 1969, a span of fifty-four years.

Norbo Old-Timers



Out for a drive — Gunerius Olsen and Andrew Anderson.



Grandma Solomonson and daughter Amalia (Solomonson) Stolee.



A picnic or gathering at J. M. Stolee's (now K. Collins). Notice the Normanna Choir. Back row — Conrad Vikse, Henry Johnson, Gunder Olsen (holding flag), Grandpa Jacob Stolee (holding flag), Alma Jerstad, Charles Layher, Mrs. Layher, Grandma Jacob Stolee, Mrs. Knute Stolee, Clara Loney, Mrs. Dave Anderson, Mrs. Jerstad and Clara, Sina Jerstad, Betsy Jerstad, Amalia Stolee (sister of B.J.) Helen Johnson, Ole, Broughton, and Lawrence, , , Mrs. Eilert Knudson,

Chris Sorenson, Jacob Vikse, Rosenberg Vikse, Abraham Jerstad, Mike Vikse. Front Row — Lars Johnson, Nesmoen, E. Quesseth, B. J. Stolee, Olf Quesseth, Torkel Vikse, Knute Stolee, George Quesseth, Hans Solomonson, Jens Jerstad, Jonas Johnson, August Vikse, Rosenberg Stolee, Helmar Johnson, Erlert Knudtson sitting with Soffie, John Vikse sitting on ground, Arthur Vikse, Alfred Vikse, Chester Stolee, Peter Stolee.



Donalda Buddies. Leon Cantelon, Jack Matheson, unknown, Bill Armstrong.



A Sunday Outing. Back row; Helen (Johnson) Bailey, Hans Solkeim, Helmer Johnson, Constance (Stolee) Burgess, Arthur Vikse. Front row — Minnie Vikse, Rosenberg Vikse, Agnes (Stolee) Kerr, John Vikse, Leboe.



Back row — Nora (Neilson) Bjorge, Martin Bjorge, Tillie (Layher) Bjorge. Front row — Alma (Bolmgren) Solomonson and husband Hans, Mrs. Charlie (Solomonson) Layher.

The Story of Alfred and Andrea Anderson by Caroline Hilde

John Alfred, eldest son of Gustaf and Kristina Anderson, was born at Naskott, Sweden, December 10, 1875. At twelve years of age, he came with his parents to the United States. In 1901, he moved with his parents to the Armena District of Alberta. He was married on June 20, 1906, under the trees at his parent's home, to Andrea Serine Moe (who was born on March 19, 1886.)



Alfred Anderson Family. Back row — Roy, Wilfred, Wallace, Mildred, Olga, Constance, Donald, Edwin, Arnt. Front row — Alfred, Evelyn, Doreen, Caroline, Andrea.



Alfred and Andrea Anderson — wedding photo.

For a number of years they farmed in the Armena District. At one time he operated the Armena store.

In 1926 they moved with their family to the Norbo district and farmed until 1938, when they opened a store. After retirement they moved to Donalda, later moving to Red Deer, where they lived until the time of his passing on December 2, 1956.

One country store remembered by the people of the area was operated by Alfred Anderson. It was located eight miles north of Donalda and was known simply as “the store”.

Six sons and six daughters were born to Alfred and Andrea Anderson. They were: Roy, Wilfred, Edwin, Arnt, Wallace, Donald, Mildred, Constance, Olga, Caroline, Evelyn, and Doreen.

Olga (Anderson) Boyd

Olga Evelyn, daughter of Alfred and Andrea Anderson, was born July 25, 1915, in Camrose. Later she moved with her parents to the Norbo district, where she spent her childhood days. She attended Norbo school, as well as Bethany Lutheran Church.

In 1939 she married Clarence Thomas Woods (who died in action in 1945). The couple had four children.

Kenneth Allen was born December 28, 1939. He married Marie Angela Albert and they had one child — Tracy Lee, born July 6, 1967. She is residing in Pincher Creek with her mother. Kenneth died in a drowning accident in 1972.

Louise Marie was born on May 1, 1941. She married Nels Ladocuer in November 1959, but they were later divorced. Their five children were: Dawn Michelle and Dale Marie (twins born in 1960), Darcy Arron (1961), Cheryl Lynn (1962) and Denise (1970). Later, Louise married Brian Carson in 1978. They live in Cowley, Alberta.

Leone Olga was born May 26, 1942. She married Ronald Keith McCartney, and they had two sons — Ronald Keith (1959) and Terry Wayne (1962). Ronald Sr. lost his life in the same drowning mishap as his brother-in-law, Kenneth. Leone married Leo Brown in 1978, and they reside in Calgary.

Clare Berniece was born June 7, 1943. She married Paul Haldor Asmundson on August 22, 1961, and they reside in Olds. There are two children: Lance Jeffrey (1962) and Cindy Lee (1964).

Olga married Alexander Boyde in 1963. They reside in Tofield.

Roy Anderson

Biography of the Roy Anderson family as it pertains to the Donalda area as of 1925 when we moved

from the Armena district, ending up on what, I think was the Charlie Anderson farm, which Dad had purchased.

I seem to remember we made two trips back and forth with horses, wagons with hayracks and grain boxes loaded with the usual farm and living paraphernalia. We came south of Camrose and turned east toward Heather Brae house, which worked out to be our half way house. We stayed there over night, courtesy of the owners, Bill and Dewitt Mulloy and their mother. I think it was a store at one time. But before we got there we had to cross a little creek which had a bridge across, but it was overflowing with water on both approaches as it was in the spring of the year. We nearly lost everything there as the east side of the approach was caving in pretty badly and there was just enough road left (but going fast) for the width of the wheels. We, and I suspect the horses, were very glad there was a dandy place and kind people such as the Mulloys near by.

I married Marion Olsen, daughter of Peter and Martha Olsen in November 1934. We began our married experience on the Oscar Johnson farm half a mile east of Bethany Church. We had four children. Roy Larry is married to Jean Carstairs of Heather Brae district and as a coincidence were married in the Heather Brae Hall just across the road, east of our half way house. They have two children Dave and Darcy, who reside in Calgary.

Joan Maureen (now deceased) married Gordon Dimmick from North Battleford Sask. They have three children Gregory, Brian and Lynn. They now reside in Mulhurst, Alberta with their dad.

Robert Clarence, married Carolyn Tokker of Calgary. They have two children, Dwight and Cheryl. They reside in Calgary.

Frances Elaine, Mrs. Fred Hardie with one child Lee Ann lives in Vernon, B.C., where I (Roy) too reside at present.

I would like to tell you of an anecdote that happened years before this; maybe 1914 or 1915 or thereabouts. Dad's brothers Ole and Victor Anderson had a hardware store in Donalda. Dad took a notion we were all going all the way from Armena (where I was born) to see his brothers. He had a Ford of about the above years vintage, I think. When we got to the Hilde area, we meandered through the bush. We had done this all the way from Armena, as there were not too many road allowances in those days. West of Hildes, going south up that great big hill, “or so I thought anyway” the car didn't have an oil pump, and I guess we went uphill too long and the front bearings got no oil, so they burned out. After getting the car to town, a garage man, Fred Hilker,

said he would repair it. He had his workshop upstairs in a building across the street south and a little east from the creamery. He had a ramp just wide enough to fit the car to get it up there, so we had an extended holiday in Donalda.

Wilfred Anderson Family

Wilfred Anderson, son of Alfred and Andrea Anderson, was born at Armena on June 20, 1913. He was baptized at Scandia Lutheran Church. Later he moved with his parents to the Norbo district (in 1925). He received his schooling at Norbo, and was confirmed at Bethany Lutheran Church.

In 1935 he was married to Lila Marie Hilde. Lila was born January 31, 1917, and was baptized and confirmed at Bethany Lutheran Church. She attended school at Ibsen and Donalda.

Wilfred and Lila farmed in the Norbo district for a number of years. They attended Bethany Lutheran Church, north of Donalda. Their children were baptized and confirmed at Bethany, and went to school at Norbo and Meeting Creek. Moving to Meeting Creek, Wilfred was there employed by the County of Camrose, as a school bus driver and Custodian of the Meeting Creek School. They retired June 30, 1979 and moved to Camrose. To their union six children were born:

Luverne married Marjorie Logan and has four children: Joyce, Kathleen, Kevin, and Wesley. They are farming at Colinton, Alberta.

Wayne married Marjorie Olsen and has four children: Barry, Philip, Sandra, and Wanda. They farmed at Perryvale, Alberta, for about six years, later moving to Clearwater, B.C. where they own and operate a Shell Service Station

Donald married Carol Schimke and has two boys: Steven and Nori. Donald is a pastor at Chase, B.C.

Yvonne married Marvin Olson. They have three children: Evangeline, Lowell and Melody. They are living at Three Hills, Alberta, where Yvonne is working for the Japan Evangelical Mission.

Irene married Vernon Harder and they have two girls: Larrissa and Tanya. They are living at Peace River, Alberta. Vernon is a Pharmacist at Harder's Drug Mart in Peace River.

Gary married Cheryl Trithart and they have one son, Neil. They are living at Olds, Alberta. Gary is a carpenter and is associated with Parklane Construction Limited.

Edwin Emmanuel Anderson

Edwin, a twin, was born March 11, 1920. In 1946, he was married to Evelyn Elizabeth Brown.

Their children were Edwin (who passed away in infancy), Terrance, Timothy, and Theodore. Terrance is married and lives in Trail, British Columbia. Timothy is married and makes Camrose his home. He has one son. Theodore lives with his wife and two girls in Leduc. Edwin has married (Myrtle Wold) and has another child, Dawn Carol. They live in Calgary.

Arnt Richard Anderson

Arnt was born on August 24, 1922. In 1950, he was married to Marion Evelyn Swedberg. They resided in Camrose where Arnt worked for the C.N.R. until his passing on May 29, 1979.

Three children were born to this union: Darrell, Laurel, and Pamela. Pamela resides with her mother in Camrose. Laurel married Pauline Kosch and Darrell married Hilda Johnson. They all reside in Edmonton. Darrell has two sons.

Caroline (Anderson) Hilde

Caroline Elvina, the sixth child of Alfred and Andrea Anderson, was born at Armena, Alberta, and was baptized at Freidhem Lutheran Church. At eight years of age, she moved with her parents to the Norbo district and attended Norbo school. She also attended Sunday School at Norbo for several years, later going to Bethany Lutheran Church where she was confirmed by Pastor Amund Tveit.

In 1939 she married Clifford Arthur, son of Henry and Mina Johnson. They lived and farmed in the Norbo district until the time of Cliff's passing in July of 1963.

To this union four children were born:

Marlene married Otto Streberg, who is an auctioneer. They own and run the Camrose and Killam Auction Markets. They have three children; John, Daniel and Julie.

James married Pauline Neilson of Iowa, U.S.A. He works for the Department of Human Resources for the B.C. Government and lives at Winfield, B.C. They have two children; Douglas and Denise.

Karen married Leonard Schlaut. They farm in the Rosalind district. Their children are: Cory, Rodney, and Cindy.

Kathryn married Ron Strand. They live in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where Ron works for Honeywell Company. They have one child, Rebecca Kari.

In 1967, Caroline married Andrew Hilde. They reside in Vernon, B.C.

Evelyn (Anderson) Roueche

I, Evelyn Anderson (twin) moved to the Norbo District with my parents at the age of six. I took all of

my schooling there. At the age of fifteen I moved around and worked here and there and had a good time doing so. Years passed and I met John Roueche and we were married January 3rd 1945. We spent twenty-five years with the Airforce.

To us were born two children; Joseph Patrick on August 3rd, 1947. God saw fit to take him from us August 25th, 1964.

Sharlene Louise was born August 19th, 1950. She is now married to Mr. Wayne Nelson. They have two daughters; Cindy seven and Kimara five. They live in Calgary.

For the past nine years we have made our home four miles out of Armstrong, B.C. Just a beautiful spot to be.

Doreen Ellen Anderson (Likness)

Doreen, the youngest of the Alfred Anderson family, was born on November 17, 1929. She married Lawrence Likness in 1952. Lawrence is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church. They have served in Port Arthur, Edmonton, Winnipeg, and Saskatoon. Presently, they are serving a parish in Scarborough, Ontario.

Their two sons, Mark and Steven, live in Saskatoon.

Wallace Eldon Anderson

Wallace was born May 4, 1924. In 1953, he married Esther Olsen. They lived in Calgary for a number of years, but now live in Chase, British Columbia, where they have a service station.

The children are: Deborah, Bonnie Lou, Maureen, Lorraine, David, and Rodney. David and Rodney reside in Chase with their parents. Maureen and Lorraine live in Calgary. Deborah and Bonnie Lou (married in 1978 to Thomas Peters) live in Kamloops.

Donald Gordon Anderson

Donald, youngest son of Alfred Anderson, was born September, 1927. He married Vicki Eliuck in May, 1957. They have lived in Breton; Juan, British Columbia; Valemount, British Columbia; and presently in Red Deer. Donald is a trucker.

Four children were born to them: Bradley, Barry, Beverly, and Bryan. Bradley is married, has one son, James, and works on an oil rig as a driller. Barry and his wife Sherry have one son, Michael. Barry is a driller for Roll-W Well Servicing — the family lives in Bentley, Alberta. Beverly works in a hotel in Vancouver and Bryan lives in Red Deer. Bryan works for Target Oil Company as a rough neck.

Constance Christina Anderson (Odegard)

Constance was born on January 24, 1911. She married Hjalmar Odin Odegard in 1937. They farmed in the Ferry Point district until 1978, when they moved to Camrose. They have three children: Dale, Lloyd and Faye — all of whom reside in Camrose. Dale was married to Adeline Renman in 1960. They have two daughters. Lloyd, married to Marilyn Scott in 1965, has a son and daughter. Faye and Murray Whitecotton have two sons.

Martin Anonson

Henrietta Maria Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Anderson was born December 5, 1892 in Minnesota. She arrived in Canada in 1908 along with her family from South Dakota. Martin Anonson, born November 9, 1892, in Minnesota, arrived in Canada in March, 1907, from Sisseton, South Dakota with his family.



Anonson Brothers — Harry, Arthur, Olaf, Martin and Hjalmer.

They were married on the 6th of June, 1914. They homesteaded at Cairns, Alberta, where two sons were born, Melvin their oldest son was stricken with scarlet fever and died at the age of three; the other died as a baby.

They moved to Red Deer in 1918, where Martin worked for the railroad in the round house and power house. In 1922 they moved to Yeoford where they farmed. It was at this time that May joined them as their chosen daughter; she was seven years old.

In 1925 they moved to a farm in the Donalda district, where grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Anonson and George, a nephew came and stayed with them. Mr. and Mrs. Ole Anonson passed away within a few months. Martin and Etta moved down by the river, east of where Fred Ramstad lives.

In 1933 they moved to Rosebush where they opened and operated a coal mine with Alvin and

Hjalmer Anonson. In 1950 they moved into the Norbo district on the farm. In 1956 they moved to Ferintosh, where they celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 1964. They also spent a few years in Bashaw Valley Lodge, before residing in Bethany Home. They celebrated their 60th Anniversary on June 6, 1974. Mrs. Anonson was noted for her handicrafts, and Martin was always ready to play his violin.

William J. Barron

In 1918, Bill Sr. and Anna Barron bought the W½ 1-43-18, a raw ½ section of CPR land. Bill Sr. was a blacksmith in Erskine for a number of years. He rented the farm to Knute Collin, Albin Hoffman, Ralph Smith and several others over the years.

Bill Jr. remembers in 1923 when Collin and Hoffman rented the land, the thousands of ducks that were blackening the sky and feeding on the crops. Duck hunters from Donalds and area came and had many a fine shoot. In spite of the duck damage, the wheat crop ran forty bushels to the acre.

In 1934 Bill Sr. and his sons Joe and Bill Jr. started farming the land themselves, operating from their home in Erskine.

In 1939 Joe left the farm to join the Airforce where he served as a wireless air-gun instructor. In 1964 Bill Jr. built a new home on the farm where he has been residing since.

Mrs. Anna Barron passed away in 1963 at the age of seventy-one years. Bill Barron Sr. passed away in 1970 at the age of ninety-six years, ten months.

The Albin Blomgren Story

by daughter Violet Swanson

Albin married Jorgina Nerhagen who had arrived aboard the R.M.S. Metagama boat from Ringsaker, Norway in 1915 to visit her two uncles, Chris Hansen and Ole Halla. Their marriage took place on November 15, 1917, and they lived with Albin's father on the homestead ten miles north of Donalds in the Ferry Point district where one daughter Violet was born July 8, 1920.

They later moved to their own farm in the Norbo district in 1924 or '25, S.W. 16-43-18-W4. They, together with their peers of that era experienced the same hardships. And in retrospect some recollections include fifty cents for a near full gallon of cream which my mother seemed to always manage to have grade no. 1 special sweet cream (without fridges).

Norwegian was the official language in our household and one of my childhood dreams was to reach the age of attending English speaking school

together with the Alfred Anderson children who passed our place each day attending Norbo school.



Gena and Albin Blomgren 1918.

On one such occasion I was sporting a boyish haircut, with a tan that could only be matched by an 'Oriental, together with a vocabulary of fractured English. "Are you a boy or a girl?" they asked, (I thought they meant 'gutt' boy and with all my "noiciferous" efforts I doubt if I convinced them I was a girl ('jente'). Bilingualism wasn't as controversial those days.

Took my elementary schooling at Norbo, the teachers which stand out most in my mind are Alice Hagen (my idol) and Alice Stolee.

My dad had a beautiful team of buckskin horses that he took great pride in.

Religious education took place at Bethany Church in Sunday School and confirmation with Rev. A. Tveit.



Hazel Anderson and Violet Blomgren playing house at the old Grandpa Blomgren place. Taken in 1930 at the ages of 15 and 10 yrs.

The Blomgrens moved away from the Norbo district in 1940 to the Sylvan Lake area. Mrs. Blomgren passed away in 1952 and Mr. Blomgren in 1963. Violet married Tony Swanson of the Blackfalds area and they now reside at Summerland, B.C.

The Blomgren Story

John Blomgren arrived in the Donalda district in 1901 from Mound City, South Dakota, U.S.A., together with his two sons-in-law, Oscar Olsen and Gilbert Haugstad. Mrs. Blomgren and family came in 1902.

Mr. Blomgren homesteaded in the Ferry Point district on the W-20-43-18-W4 and later purchased the east quarter of section 21 from the C.P.R. for \$300.00.

On sight of the green grass and abundance of flowers he wrote his wife, "I wish I had you in a gunny sack and opened it here to let you at this place to see all the flowers", (after all, the term of gunny sack was quite vogue in those days).

His wife Betty passed away in 1905.

Donalda, Alberta

June 30, 1915

I came from Mound City, South Dakota, U.S.A. 13 years ago and I came to this part of Alberta. This is the best country I ever saw or farmed in, I have no idea of going away. I own a half section and I don't owe a cent to any man. It is a number one country if you want to grow grain as a chief business.

J. A. Blomgren

Children:

Agnes Amalia born 1880 married Oscar Olsen.

Ada Ascara born 1885 married Gilbert Haugstad.

Alma Amanda born 1886 married Hans Solomonson.

Alga Alfena born 1888 married Carl Anderson.

Ames Alander born 1893 never married.

Abel born 1895 married Sophie Akland.

Albin Adulph born 1890 married Jorgina Nerhagen.

All seven childrens names begin with the letter "a" in their first two names.

Mr. John Blomgren passed away in 1943 at the age of 90 years. The only two surviving children at that time were Abel and Albin who has since passed away, Abel now resides at Summerland, B.C.

The Ovide Blouin Family

Ovide Blouin was born at St. Anne de Plein, Quebec in 1860, and came west to the Ferry Point District where he started ranching in 1897. The railway did not come very far west and so he had to walk many hundreds of miles west of Winnipeg. From Ferry Point his ranch ran about three miles east down



Blouin reunion July 1978.

the river valley and consisted of 800 acres of land and 250 to 300 head of cattle. His home was the first one built in the area being located on the N. E. ¼ of 16-43-18. He had to walk fifty miles to get groceries until sometime later a store was opened and supplies were brought by Ferry down the Battle River. He filed on a homestead on March 29, 1902 and later sold the place to Ted Hagen in 1911. After this he returned to Ottawa and on Sept. 2, 1917 he married a school teacher, Rose Marie Simard. They lived in Ottawa for a period of ten years and during these years five of the children were born. They were Foch, Lorette, Marcel, Helene and Jacques. In the late summer of 1927 they came to Donalda and lived in a little three-roomed shack by the old Revelstoke Lumber Yard. Most of the furniture was boxed and stored in a garage. Spring came and with it lots of water, running right through the living room. At this time the family moved into a big white building which served as a hall with living quarters attached. Mom and Dad did the janitor work for part of the rent. Foch and Lorette went to a one-roomed School and they both found it hard as they could speak only French. They attended a special class to learn English. Mother could not speak English either, and being a school teacher she tutored students in French and at the same time she learned English. Father Fay was the Priest in Rosalind where we attended the Roman Catholic Church. Bert Russell who was the Gillespie Grain Elevator Agent at the time would take us to Church in his "Star" car. Occasionally, we would go to the Duhamel Church with William Durand. Father Beillevaire was the well-known Priest. Dr. Jackson provided medical attention from his little office in his house. His wife served as his nurse. Mrs. L. Otteson was the Postmistress and some of our neighbors were Vikses, Stolees and Andersons. We moved to the farm located on the E½-12-43-18 in 1929. The five-roomed house was made from logs with lath and plaster on the inside.



Theresa, Lorette, Marcel, Helene and Rose holding Claire 1934.

The walls were brushed with calcimine, later it was sided with boards on the outside and the inside was wall-papered, at least some of the rooms were. Bedbugs were a real problem and Mother would not have the bedrooms papered because she said it attracted the bugs and we already had enough of them. Dad became partially paralyzed and so we hired men to help with the farming. Alex Lapine, who also had a barber shop in Donalda, was one of them. William Worrall, who had come from England and had worked in the Jones Coal Mine at Ferry Point, was another of the men who worked for Dad. In August 1931 Theresa was born in the log house on the farm. Mrs. Shaurette was there as the Doctor did not arrive in time. Cecelia Shea helped out at the time. Since the house was small for a family of that size, much of the furniture, carpentry tools and trunks of other keepsakes were stored in a shed. This shed burned to the ground by fire that was believed to have started by mice scratching on matches. Many keepsakes were lost. Foch, Lorette, Marcel and Helene went to Norbo school with Alice Stolee as the teacher. Claire arrived in November of 1933. She was born at home too with Doctor Sheriffs attending. Dad passed away in November 1934 after being bed-ridden for a number of years. He was buried in Rosalind Catholic Church cemetery. The thirties were hard dry years. A



Ovide and Rose Blouin.

bad hailstorm in 1935 pounded everything into the ground. Duststorms were a common occurrence. We had cattle, pigs, chickens, and of course horses with which to do the farming. We also had sheep for a number of years. Somehow we managed to grow a big garden, and although we didn't have fancy things, we always had enough to eat and a clean bed to sleep in. Jacques, Theresa, and Claire also went to school at Norbo. Travel was by team and sleigh in the winter and by democrat in the summer or else we walked or rode horseback.

Later on Bill bought an "Essex" car and so we travelled in style. This car was the object of many humorous incidents. Summer found us gathered on the farm to play ball or we would have a picnic with the Kneelands and Sheas at Kneeland's picnic ground on the river flat. Much time was spent swimming in the Battle River, and in the summer this was where we took our Saturday baths. Winter sports included skating, skiing, and tobogganing on the Norbo Hill. In July 1942 Jacques was getting some hay when he heard the dog barking in the bush. When he went to investigate, he found a baby fawn. He supposed the dog had frightened the mother away so he put the fawn in the wagon and brought it home to show the family. It was so small and so pretty. When Jacques was going to take him back, Theresa and Claire cried and begged to keep it, and so Mother gave in. We named him "Bambi" and he was fed with a bottle and nipple until he could eat grass and drink water. He was allowed to run loose and it was not unusual to see him along the road or down by the river, but he always came home at night.

Bambi was with us until he began to get mean and we had to have him destroyed as he would chase the neighbors if we didn't watch him. We were all very sad and wished that we would have taken him back to the bush where he was found.

In the fall of 1942 the crop got snowed under and the men had to dig the bundles out of the stooks in order to feed the cattle. The threshing was done in the spring of 1943 before the crop could be seeded. Mother went back East that spring as she had not seen her relatives since she came out West in 1927. In the summer of 1945 we moved into Rosalind so that Theresa and Claire could finish their schooling. The rest of the family were either working away from home or were married. Marcel took over the home place and Bill bought a ¼ section of land by Ankerton. In August 1946 Mother and Mr. Worrall were married and so spent a lot of time between the farm and town. When Bill sold his farm he moved the house into Rosalind and remodelled it. Bill was a good carpenter and worked with an elevator repair

crew for a number of years. He was also the caretaker of the curling rink in Rosalind and was an avid curler. Mother passed away in January 1966 and she too is buried in the Rosalind Cemetery. Bill still makes his home in Rosalind although the last couple of years he spends the winter months at Powell River in B.C. with Claire.

In July 1978 a family re-union was held at the Worrall residence in Rosalind with 87 of the 95 immediate family members attending. Mr. Worrall's brother Eric and his wife Rene were visiting from England at the time. The day was spent in playing various games and in visiting.

Foch Blouin

Foch was the eldest of Ovide Blouin's family born in November 1918, in Ottawa. He came west with his folks in 1927, attending school in Donalda and Norbo and went to work for various farmers in the area. He joined the army in 1940 and took basic training in Camrose and trained for a time at Camp Shilo in Manitoba. In the fall of 1940 he was sent overseas where he was stationed in different European countries. He spent his leaves in England, visiting the Worrall family. Foch was wounded in action and spent his recovery time working as an interpreter as he could speak both French and English fluently. He returned home in September 1945 and in October of that same year married Eva Deschatelets of Legal, Alberta. They settled in Edmonton and Foch worked as a Psychiatric Nurse at the Alberta Mental Hospital for thirty-three years. They have five children all of whom are married. Bernard of Fort Saskatchewan, Carole (Mrs. Jack Ponon) of Edmonton, Anna (Mrs. Elmer McGillvery) of Sherwood Park, Dennis and George of Edmonton. They have seven grandchildren. Foch retired early and in 1975 he and Mr. Worrall visited Bill's family in England. He and his wife Eva also visited England and European countries where Foch was stationed during the war years. They have a cabin at Sandy Lake and are enjoying good health and travel alot with their Square dance club.

Lorette Blouin (Jones)

Lorette, oldest daughter of Ovide Blouin was born in December 1921, and came west with the family in 1927. She was six years old. She remembers the train ride and at Winnipeg the family got separated. When it was time to get back on the train Mother, Lorette, and the three smaller children could not find Dad and Foch. The conductor said it's time to get on the train and when they did they were sure relieved to find that Dad and Foch were already on

the train. She started school in Donalda and found it hard because she couldn't speak English. The spring of 1929 Mother was out at the farm to fix up the house. Marcel and I wanted to go there too, so we started out on foot with the little wagon. It had been raining and going up Donalda Hill we were walking in mud up to our knees. I couldn't pull Marcel anymore so decided we'd better go back home. Meanwhile Dad had sent a neighbor (Gordon Otteson) to look for us, for he was very worried and not able to go himself. Shortly afterward we moved to the farm and went to Norbo School with Alice Stolee as teacher. After Dad died I worked for Alfred Vikses and Earl Batkes. I also worked for Mrs. Hendel for \$10.00 per month and would walk home eight miles. At eighteen I went to Youth Training School in Calgary. Worked in Calgary, checking clothes in a Dry Cleaning Plant, until 1944 when I came home and married Willie Jones. Willie was a coal miner. We lived in Forestburg, Rosalind, Centennial and Spruce Coulee.

In 1955 the family (we had four children) moved to Edmonton where Willie got a job in the laundry at the Alberta Mental Hospital at Oliver. Lorette went to work there shortly afterward and they both retired in 1976.

Our four children are all married. David at Swan Hills, Rose (Mrs. Gordipy) of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Jack of Stony Plain and Ida (Mrs. Irving) of Edmonton. We have eight grandchildren.

Marcel Blouin

Born December 4, 1923. He worked on the home farm and went to work for Pat O'Donnell of Anker-ton who was a farmer. Later Marcel worked for Mr. S. P. Gould and Vernon Malone, both of Rosalind. In 1945 he married Anna Peterson of Hayter, Alberta.

They had six sons. John, their second son was born at home in 1948. Mrs. Sjostrom and Mrs. Conrad Vikse were in attendance. The roads and river were flooding. Marcel went to Rosalind to get his Mother to help out and the next day the bridge south of Rosalind washed out. Two weeks later Mother had to cross the river in a motor boat to get back home.

Marcel and Anna lived on the home farm three and a half years and then went to work for Bob Holladay of Donalda. They purchased their own place in 1953 which was 23-42-18-W4 and lived there until 1976 when he retired and moved to Red Deer for one year. They built a new home in Donalda where they now live. Their six sons are: Ovide of McBride, B.C., John of Donalda, Lester of McBride, B.C.,

Eric of Stettler, Lenard of Hinton and Dale at home who works in Red Deer. They have eight grandchildren.

Helene Blouin (Rostaing)

Born March 1925 and at age of two came to Donalda with the family. Went to school to grade nine at Norbo. She worked in Rosalind for Goulds and many years for W. F. MacDonalds at the store and in their home.

Married Ed Rostaing of Ohaton in 1958. They have four children; Roseanne, Maurice, Pierre, and Paulette.

Helene passed away on March 9, 1979 at the age of 54 years.

Jack Blouin

Jack was born on November 29, 1926 in Ottawa. He came west when just a baby and went to school at Norbo and at 14 years of age worked for Tom O'Donnell and other farmers around Rosalind. He worked in B.C. for two years and in 1945 started driving "Cat" for Ose Construction.

In 1958 he married Dorothy Gartner of Bodo, Alberta. They have lived in Rosalind since their marriage. Jack now works for Hauser Construction. They have three daughters; Doreen, Darlene, and Donna.

Claire Blouin (Carlson)

Claire was born November 5, 1933. She went to school at Norbo until grade seven when she moved into Rosalind with her family and finished school. She was a very good athlete and won many ribbons in track and field.

She married Ray Benz in 1951 and lived in Bittern Lake and Edmonton. They had three boys; Duane, Allan, and Leslie.

Claire married Arnold Carlson in Trenton, Ontario and they now live in Powell River, B.C. Duane is married and lives in Edmonton, Allan is in the navy in Victoria and Les is going to school in Nanaimo.

Theresa Blouin (Nichols)

Theresa was born on the home farm in August 1931. She took her first eight years of schooling at Norbo and in 1945 moved with the family to Rosalind to finish high school. She graduated in 1949 and the same year married Donald Nichols.

They lived on the home farm for two years and then went working for different farmers at Donalda, Viking, Edberg, and Camrose areas. They bought a farm at Armena and Donald worked at Camrose. Theresa started working at Camrose Bootery in 1963



Theresa Blouin (Nichols) family. Back — Don, Lorraine, Norman, Marilyn, Vernon. Front — Allan, Yvonne and Theresa.

and worked until 1978. They moved into Camrose in May 1976 and she now works at the County Office. Donald still works for Stelco.

They had six children. The four oldest were very musical and had a band for some years. Three are married; Allan of Camrose, Norman of Edmonton, and Marilyn (Mrs. T. Nordin) of Camrose. Vernon of Camrose and Lorraine and Yvonne are at home. They have three grandchildren.

S. J. Broughton Family

Sigurd Broughton was born in 1886 at Osakis, Minnesota, the youngest of six children. In the fall of 1905 he came to the Donalda district and the following spring settled on a homestead.

Being a lover of nature, he was much impressed with the free, open country, its luxurious grass and healthy invigorating climate. He was active in community affairs, an avid reader keenly interested in the events of the day. Beginning in 1913 Mr. Broughton carried on a farm auction business as a sideline to farming. At various times he served on the local school board, various offices with the local U.F.A., was a Director and Chairman of the Donalda Co-operative Creamery Association and the Donalda Northern Mutual Telephone Company.

In 1914 he was married to Isabelle Hagen. She was one of six children of John T. Hagen of Farewell, Minnesota who earlier had purchased the Ovide



Sigurd Broughton and Isabel Hagen on their wedding day.



Sigurd Broughton's 25th Wedding Anniversary. Back row — Ruby, Evelyn, Omar, Lavonne, Bertha and twin Bill. Front row — Phyllis, Sigurd and Belle.

Blouin Ranch south of Ferry Point. Their family consisted of five daughters; Evelyn (Mrs. M. E. Johnson) of Camrose; Ruby (Mrs. J. S. Nordstrom) of Edmonton; Lavonne (Mrs. D. H. Pitts) of Winnipeg; Bertha of Edmonton; Phyllis (Mrs. R. Munson) of Camrose; and two sons; William who farms eight miles north of Donalda and Omar of Edmonton. While maintaining an interest in the district, Omar has not lived here since 1940, having served in the R.C.A.F. and later attending the University of Alberta.

His employment has taken him to Lethbridge in the broadcasting business and for fifteen years, was Corporate Secretary of the Alberta Wheat Pool in Calgary, and since 1972 he has been Commodity Commissioner with the Alberta Department of Agriculture in Edmonton.

Sigurd Broughton passed away in June of 1953 and Isabelle, after twenty years of pleasant retirement in Edmonton, died in March, 1976.

Collin Recollections

by Doris Radke

There are many things I remember from home, like —

all the visiting back and forth with our neighbors, extending and accepting invitations.

Dad's many cold winter trips to town with the team and sleigh, and how we would keep running to open the door to listen for the creaking of the sleigh runners. There was **always** a bag of candy in the grocery box!

the day Dad cut his finger off in the grinder.

the fast trips to church in our cutter, pulled by Dad's prize horse, Jerry.

all the piles of flat bread, buns and "scorpor"

Mother was always baking.

the cold walks to school in the winter, and the hot walks in the summer, and how **long** Norbo hill always seemed!

the bobsled rides through waist high drifts to school Christmas concerts and church Sunday school programs.

how often we had to replace the mantles on our gas lamp, and wash the chimneys on our kerosene lamps.

how we used to fuss over Christmas, decorating every corner and baking endlessly — and entertaining just as much.

Dad doing his Christmas shopping at the Donalda Hardware the afternoon prior to Christmas Eve.

Dad making skis for Robert and Alton, table and chairs for Florence, furniture from old organs, and three church altars.

very entertaining radio programs — Treasure Trail,
 Fibber Magee and Molly, Carter Family, Ma
 Perkins, Pepper Young's Family.
 Grandpa Vikse many times stopping with the mail
 when he came from town.
 shopping by mail from the Army and Navy and
 Eaton's catalogues.
 threshing days, when the children were excited and
 the mothers were in a dither.
 butchering days.
 the whine of the saw as the neighbors helped build a
 pile of wood for winter.
 the outdoor privy!
 bringing lunch out to Dad in the field — our thermos
 being a quart sealer wrapped in newspaper and
 finally stuck in a man's heavy sock.
 tent meetings in a huge tent pitched by Anderson's
 store.
 the first tractor Dad had.
 the first washing machine Mom had.
 cream trucks twice a week.
 clothes peddlers, with their panel trucks.
 the Watkins man with his wares spread all over the
 floor.
 how **cold** it was in the winter to come home after an
 all day's visit, and how often there was ice in the
 water pail in the morning.
 how many pictures we drew in the thick frost on the
 window panes in winter.
 the Ladies Aid picnics on July 1st, with freezers of
 home-made ice cream and bunches of bananas
 hanging from the "ceiling" of the booth (fresh-
 ly constructed from a few boards and many
 poplar branches).

The Knut Collin Story by Dwayne Radke

Knut Collin was born on September 8, 1888, in
 Gefle, Sweden, the son of a local farmer and freight-
 er. Farm work did not appeal to him, and after



Margaret and Harry Collin feeding chickens — sometime in
 the 1930's.

completing grade eight, he apprenticed to a bicycle
 repairman; he worked for six years at this trade,
 finally operating his own bicycle shop, before coming
 to Canada. Several local fellows were working in
 the lumber camps at Big River, Saskatchewan, and
 were making big money (by Swedish standards), and
 in 1911 Mr. Collin and his brother came to Canada,
 intending to get rich and return to Sweden. According
 to information they had received from Canada
 Immigration, they thought that this would take two or
 three years at the very most.

Mr. Collin worked in the lumber mills at Big
 River for two years. Shortly after arriving, he was
 nearly scared to death. He had made a quick trip to
 the outdoor privy, and had just settled himself, when
 he heard a terrible wail behind him. He ran back to
 the mill, certain that a northern wolf was chasing
 him. His comrades laughed and told him that he had
 heard a coyote.

In the fall of 1913, he and 13 other fellows took a
 job in the mountains west of Kamloops, clearing
 one-half mile of road bed for the C.N.R. They were
 to be paid thirty-five cents a yard for moving dirt, and
 one dollar a yard for moving rock; the work was done
 with picks and shovels, and with one old horse and
 cart. The job lasted one year; when World War One
 broke out, C.N.R. lost fifty million dollars in financ-
 ing, and as a result the men received only a partial
 payment.

In the fall of 1914, Mr. Collin and a friend rode a
 freight train from Kamloops to Edmonton, and from
 there walked south on the rails to Wetaskiwin, in
 search of work. Mr. Collin finally found a job on a
 farm west of Ferintosh; he was paid fifteen dollars
 monthly, plus room and board. (Many men that winter
 worked for room and board only.) Mr. Collin became
 very disgusted with the hard work and the
 low wages, and swore that come spring he would
 never again be found on a farm. Unfortunately, jobs
 were scarce, and for the next two years he worked as
 a farm laborer in the Dorelee and Meeting Creek
 area.

In 1917, he and a partner, Albin Hoffman, rented
 a farm in the Dorelee area from S.S. Bell (this was
 the former Eric Johnson farm). In 1920 the partner-
 ship bought a farm from Knut Stolee of the Norbo
 district; they paid twenty-five dollars an acre for the
 half section. Wheat at the time was selling for two
 dollars a bushel, and the farm economy looked good.
 Unfortunately wheat prices soon dropped, and it was
 many years before they were able to pay for the farm.
 At the height of the 1930's depression the real estate
 company which held the note had to provide seed
 grain to enable these farmers to continue.



Knute Collin family on Knute and Hanny's Golden Wedding Day. Harry, Doris, Florence, Robert, Margaret, Knute, Hanny.

The partnership was eventually dissolved, and in 1926 Mr. Collin married Hanny Hanson, formerly of the Hay Lakes area. (Hanny Hanson was born on September 7, 1898 at Wilhelmina, Sweden, and came to the Hay Lakes area with her parents in 1905. In 1907 she was orphaned, and went to live with an uncle and aunt.) Hanny, soon after moving to the farm, had asked Mrs. Jacob Vikse why the men would have painted the ceiling black. Mrs. Vikse replied that that wasn't paint, but rather, was years of soot and dirt. A bedroom upstairs leaked quite badly also — probably because Hoffman used to lay on the bed in the evenings and shoot with a .22 rifle at the mice frolicking on the exposed laths.

Mr. Collin was interested in carpentry and furniture construction, and made the pulpit and altar at Bethany Lutheran Church, Donaldia, a church he was active in for many years. He also made the altars for Edberg Lutheran Church and Friedhem Lutheran Church. For many years he served as a neighbourhood vet and blacksmith — in addition to being the local bicycle repairman.

Mr. Collin lived on his farm until the time of his passing, in 1976. Shortly before his death he commented that he certainly had not planned to be a farmer — and he never did get rich.

Mrs. Collin continues to live on the home farm, in the house that started out as a homestead cabin for Jacob Stolee, and which continued as a home for her family for many years.

To the Collin marriage six children were born: Doris, Robert, Astrid (who died in infancy), Harry, Margaret, and Florence. Seventeen grandchildren and one great-grandchild have also arrived. (1979).

All five Collin youngsters received their early education at Norbo.

Doris and Harry settled in the home district, and their stories follow later.

Robert attended university in Saskatoon four years, studying Engineering. He then was awarded an Athlone Fellowship (established by the British Government to train Canadian engineers). This enabled him to study at Imperial College in London for two years, where he received his Ph.D. In 1952, he married Kathleen Smith of Belfast.

Robert and Kathleen now live in Cleveland, Ohio, where "Bob" is Dean of Applied Physics and Engineering at Case Western Reserve University. He is author of several books, some of which have been translated into several languages and used as college texts in other countries. As a result of this, he sometimes accepts invitations to present lectures; Brazil and Denmark are two countries he has visited.

The couple have three children — Patricia (married) and Linda are college students. Patricia is engaged in post-graduate studies. David is at home and attending high school.

Margaret became a nurse, and met her husband, Gene Jones, while she was nursing in Nome, Alaska. They have lived in various areas in the United States, finally settling on the beautiful Kenai Peninsula in Alaska, where they have built a new home. Margaret has spent much of her married life nursing. Gene is employed by the F.A.A. (Federal Aeronautics Federation).

Margaret and Gene have three daughters: Cheryl, Kimberly, and Lisa. Cheryl and Kim are attending college in Oregon. Lisa is at home attending high school.

Florence became a teacher and still fills in as a substitute teacher when the occasion arises. She and her husband, Leroy Johnson, are engaged in mixed farming in the Meeting Creek area. They are staunch supporters of the Evangelical Free Church in Meeting Creek. The couple have three children: Roger, Marianne, and Douglas.

The Harry Collin Story

Harry farmed along with his dad Knut Collin, from the time he was sixteen.

In 1958 (after considerable shopping around) he decided to take on a wife in the form of Anna Halseide. Harry and Anna were married in August of 1958, and went to live in their own home on the family farm.

Born to this union were one son Rodney and two daughters Dorothy and Christine.

Harry is an avid hunter, and each fall the west



Harry Collin found this new-born calf in a slough, after Anna gave it a warm bath, the calf revived.

country calls as sure as the "snow flies". Not every year can he get away, and not every trip is there success, but this may be a good thing as you sure can get tired of eating wild meat! Anna, too, has learned to enjoy the sport of hunting, and has joined Harry in the odd short local hunt.

In 1973 the family travelled to Haugesund, Norway to visit Halseide relatives. It was a joy and a pleasure for Anna to meet her father's brother and three sisters and their families. Her father, Hans, had never seen his family again since leaving Norway in 1925. Harry and Anna also met and visited with Erling Saltveit. They also travelled into Sweden to visit Collin relatives.

Son Rodney, twenty, enjoys the outdoors and is an avid hunter like his dad. Rodney had worked the past two seasons for a guide and outfitter in Tonquin Valley at Jasper.

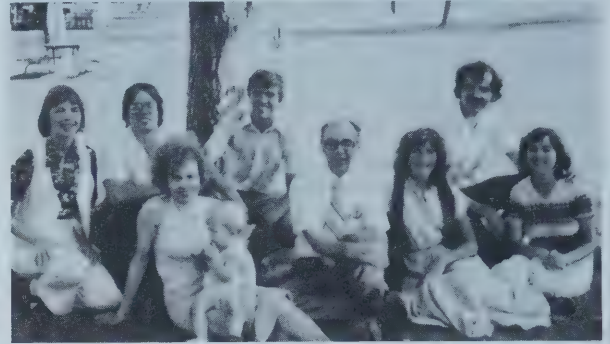
Dorothy, eighteen, attended L.C.B.I. Outlook, Saskatchewan for her last year of high school, and graduated there. She takes an interest and pleasure in Art.

Christine, fifteen, is still in school and attends Edberg High School. Christine is fond of poetry and at times will write her own poems.

The Collin family join with friends, neighbors and family in worship and fellowship at Bethany Lutheran Church.

Helga Gronlund

Helga Gronlund came to the Norbo district in 1928. After residing there for many years, she moved to Camrose and was employed at the Bethany Home and Hospital for ten years. Recently she moved from her home into Rose Villa, where she is enjoying her retirement.



Daniel Vinge family. Ronna, Mark, Steven, Tom, Marie holding her first grandson, Daniel, Carol, Carmen.

Her daughter Marie married Rev. Daniel Vinge in 1951. They spent the early years of their marriage on the mission field in Japan. Now they live in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, where Daniel is chaplain at a hospital and Marie continues her nursing career. They have four children: Carmen, Steve, Mark, and Carol.

Alton Gronlund joined the Navy at an early age. Later, he spent a lot of time in the trucking business, and has lived in several different locations in British Columbia and Alberta. He presently is employed in the construction industry in Camrose.

Jake and Gyda Hagen

by Berit Hagen

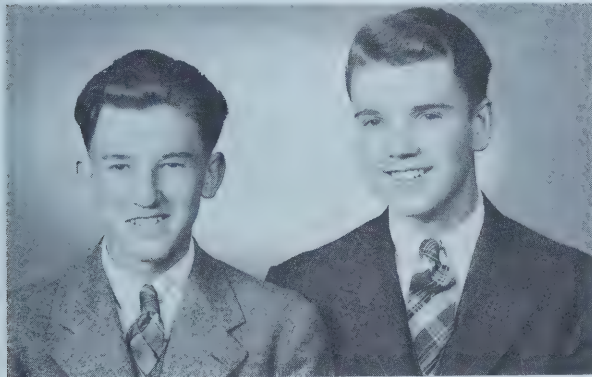
Jake, the third son of John and Maria Hagen was born in Minnesota. In the spring of 1920 he arrived at the family farm north of Donalda. He was quite disappointed in the appearance of the land, coming on the train from Camrose to Donalda, which follows the creek and river valleys. He was glad to find there was level land, and not all coulees.

Jake and Gyda Haukedahl of New Norway were later married and raised two sons Jim and Donald. Gyda was a good seamstress and took in sewing to augment the family income. They later moved to Edmonton where Jake was engaged in plumbing.

Both boys are married and live in Montana. Jake and Gyda both died some years ago.



Mr. and Mrs. Jake Hagen (Gyda Haukedahl).



The Jake Hagen sons, Donald and Jimmy.

Theodore and Carolina Hagen

Ted Hagen was born at Farewell, Minnesota in 1880, and Lina in Douglas County, Minnesota in 1888. In 1911 they arrived north of Donalda on land (S. E. 16, 43, 18) purchased from Ovide Blouin. Mr. Blouin was an early rancher, having come west from Quebec in 1886, with Camille David, a distant relative. This land was the homestead of Mr. Blouin, who farmed 10 acres on the N.E. corner, making it the only cultivated land in Central Alberta, outside the Duhamel Settlement.

August Vikse told about Mr. Blouin owning a small binder or reaper. When asked if it was a six foot one, replied "No it was a **small** binder". This year a



Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hagen (nee Carolina Olsen).

twenty-one foot swather was used, to cut the crop, on that same land.

Ted and Lina raised a family of six children. Edna, the eldest, married Maurice Minton and they reside in Edmonton. She attended the Camrose Normal and upon graduating taught Ewing school, south of Erskine, Sather school south of Czar and later taught in Cadogan. Maurice Minton was a Mining Engineer, and during W. W. 2 was an Astral Navigation Instructor at Rivers and Prince Albert. Later his prospecting jobs and claim staking, for mining companies, took him to remote sections of Northern Manitoba. At that time they resided in Winnipeg. Maurice also taught school in Saskatchewan. They are now retired.

Alice is married to Larry Patnode and resides in Whitehorse. They have two children, Sharon and Bruce, and one grandchild Kirk Potter. Alice also



The Ted Hagen family. Back row — Oliver, Edna, Minton, Palmer, Helen Fisher, Norman. Front row — father, Alice Patnode, mother.

attended Camrose Normal, and taught at Daisy Bank and Leader, both south of Halkirk, then at the home school, Norbo. Her husband, Larry is employed by Yukon Highways Department in Whitehorse, as scaleman.

Norman Hagen married Ileen McCarrol and they have three children. Jeffrey (phys. Ed. teacher in Calgary) married to June McTighe, have one son Ryan Jeffrey. Susan studied Horticulture at the University of B.C. and lives in B.C. Jan Marie is attending High School in Calgary. Norman spent sometime overseas in W. W. 2. He is now retired after working in the office of Wilkinson Steel in Calgary.

Then there was Palmer, whose story will appear later, and Oliver. He was married in Lethbridge to Edna Price, and they have one son Garry; who re-

sides in Ft. St. John. He is a petroleum engineer. Alberta Bilesky and Garry were married in 1968, and have one daughter Geryl Lynn. They lost a son Aaron in infancy.

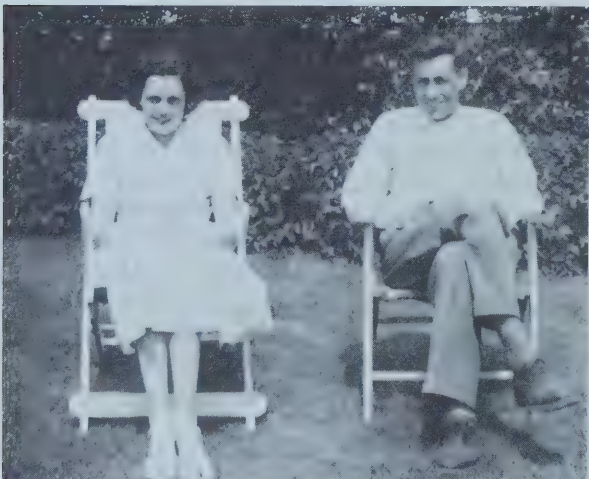
Helen, the youngest of the Ted Hagen children, was also a school teacher. After a short stint at teaching, first near Manning and then at Skybo, she switched to office work in Edmonton. It was there she met and married Clyde Fisher. They had one son Bob who is married, and lives in Boston. Clyde passed away in 1978, after major heart surgery. They had retired to Lantzville, on Vancouver Island, where they built their dream home. Helen continues to reside there.

Palmer and Berit Hagen

Palmer the second son of Ted and Lina Hagen, spent most of his life on the farm in the Norbo district. Upon his parent's retirement to Camrose in



Company from Denmark at Palmer Hagens, 1978. Back row — Bea Kvemshagen, Paul Christiansen, Ed Kvemshagen, Anna Collin, Harry Collin, Ulla (Lundell) Christiansen, Palmer Hagen. Front row — Hanny Collin, Christine Collin, Jenny Briggita Christiansen.



Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hagen.



Mr. and Mrs. Palmer Hagen (nee Berit Berild).

1945, he bought the home place. S. E. 16, 43, 18. Since then he has added to this, by purchasing land belonging to several early settlers—viz: Arnold Andersons, Roy Lunds, Eli Olsons, Anton Petersons, Helmar Duklets and Angus Olsens.

In 1945 Palmer and Berit Berild were married at Central Lutheran Church in Edmonton. Her parents John Berild and Mia Hanson lived in Calgary, and it was there that their second child Berit was born. Later she lived on the family homestead at Bigstone, south of Youngstown; then attended High School in Youngstown and Tofield; and took her Normal training at Camrose. She taught at Miquelon, Coal Hill, Kelsey and three years in Edmonton.

Two sons were born: Douglas is a diesel engineer, and is now salesman for a machine company. He and Linda Pepper of Ohaton were married, and have two children, Nancy Odia and Tyler Clifford. Forrest is a Petroleum Technical Engineer, in a Calgary Office, and married to Susan Bradley. They have one son, Bennett Roderick.

Both boys were active in 4-H.

We are indeed fortunate to have lived in such a changing time, having lived to see radio, TV, motion pictures, electricity, gas heated homes and power machines become the way of life. We have so much for which to be thankful.

Palmer is interested in collecting antiques, barbershopping, riding and the raising of cattle and horses; especially Thoroughbreds.

Berit has various hobbies: ceramics, art, doll collecting and needlework. We are semi retired now, living on the home farm; the old Blouin and David Ranch.

John and Maria Hagen

John Hagen and his wife Maria farmed at Farewell, Minnesota. This was good farming country and the land was becoming valuable. They had a lovely home and a well equipped farm. Here they raised their six children. They were Isabel (Mrs. Sigurd Broughton), Ida (Mrs. Joe Sand), John, Jake (who married Gyda Haukedahl, of New Norway), Theodore (Ted) and then Annie, (who died shortly after being married).

Some of the family decided to come to the Norbo area, so land was purchased as early as 1911. It wasn't until later, in 1920 that the parents, John and Maria, sold their land at Farewell and bought more land, also north of Donalda. Here they built up a fine farmstead located on N. E. 16, 43, 18. The house was moved many years later, remodelled and is now the home of Bill and Shirley Broughton.

John Hagen was born in 1856 and died in 1938. Maria (his wife) was born in 1852 and died in 1940.



The John Hagen family. Back row — Ida (Mrs. Joe Sand), Ted, Jake, John, Isabel (Mrs. Sigurd Broughton). Front row — Father, Anna (Mrs. Fred Michael), Mother.

Gilbert Haugstad

by daughter Esther Vikse

In July 1902 Gilbert and Ada left Mound City, South Dakota, with me their daughter Esther, two years old, and brother Oscar, two months old. They came by train to Wetaskiwin and homesteaded S. E. 4-43-18-w4 and bought C.P.R. land S.W. 3-43-18-w4.

They brought three mules and one sorrel horse named Jay. Dad had heard of horses getting swamp fever in Canada. It was a great sacrifice because he had very fine horses in the U.S.

The first venture was to haul lumber from Wetaskiwin for a house. Haaken Stolee helped with the building, which was one of the first frame houses in the district. Sometime later when hauling grain to Bawlf, he made a trip to Daysland and made a deal with the manager of the livery barn for a high spirited team of horses.



Gilbert Haugstad family. Gilbert, Esther, Oscar, Edwin, Casper, Bernt.

I remember driving across country to attend church at Ferry Point in the democrat buggy, and to the Ferry Point store for groceries. Mr. Halley, Mr. Campbell and Jack Brown, the blacksmith, were proprietors of the much needed businesses. The store was built on the east side of the Battle River, and we crossed by boat. Later a ferry was used so we brought horse and buggy across too. Years later my husband Conrad bought a roll top desk that had belonged to Mr. Brown, which I still have.

Selling livestock, the cattle had to be driven to market. I remember one of my dad's steers got stuck in the river mud, and was stepped on by the oncoming animals and was killed.

There were many prairie fires and the threat was always present in the dry season. The grass was high and lay in a thick mat. In those days whenever a smoke was sighted we dropped everything and

rushed there as fast as we could. I have vivid memories of a fire south of our house. Dad had plowed the garden plot so Mother put the baby in the carriage and wheeled it to the middle of the garden, giving me orders to stay there caring for we three children until they returned. There was a man they called the fire bug who went around deliberately setting fires.

The wild flowers grew in abundance and the fun of bringing bouquets to our Mother, aunt and teacher was a thrill. There were blue bells, tiger lilies, and lady slippers in abundance. There were many more wild berries; wild strawberries were so luscious and well hidden in the deep green grass the wagon wheels would be stained red.

Our early sunday school and confirmation classes were in Norwegian.

When Pastor Nodtvedt came to our community for services, he stayed in different homes. He needed to prepare his sermons so our Mother made us stop our playing and sit still on a chair while he paced the floor from corner to corner (that made the longest walk) with his Bible in his hand and thinking.

Another thing I found it hard to sit still for, was when my dad read out of a Norwegian devotional book. It seemed to go on forever. I was sure that God was Norwegian because everything to do with church work was in Norwegian.

A lot of people changed their names when they came to America. My fathers name was Gilbert Austin. He was fostered by a family called Haugstad so he adopted their name. My grandfather Blomgren's name was Anderson but there were so many Andersons in the U.S. where he was, that he took his wifes name which was Blomgren.

My mother passed away in 1910. My father passed away in 1938. Brother Edwin passed away in 1936. Brother Oscar passed away in 1978 and brother Brent passed away 1979. Brother Casper lives in Ferintosh — retired.

Donalda, Feb. 2nd, 1915

I came from Mound City, South Dakota, 13 years ago and settled on a homestead near Donalda and have farmed ever since. Seeding oats, wheat and in cattle, I find this country to be good for mixed farming. I like this country better than South Dakota; we can grow more and better grain than South Dakota. For stock we have plenty hay and good water. Winters are not so hard as South Dakota. There is plenty wood and cheap coal.

Gilbert Haugstad

Albin Julius Hoffman 1888-1961

by Ann Stacey

My father was seventeen when he left Varmeland, du sjona, on an impulse and set off for all the adventure, excitement and glamour of the "New World." His elder brother had made the plans and bought the ticket — he'd even studied English — but at the last minute he'd gotten cold feet and decided to remain in Sweden. My father had no doubt envied this brother his brave schemes to seek his fortune in America and when those schemes were so summarily dropped, young Albin was there to take the ticket and go in his stead. Brother generously gave him his Swedish-English dictionary; except for this my father was ill-prepared to take on such an abrupt new way of life.

His first mistake in this country was to board the wrong train at the quay. However this was not serious as there was no specific place he planned to go to nor anyone there to expect him or take him in hand. He found his way to Michigan where he took a job as a lumberjack. Within weeks he became deathly ill with typhoid fever. There was no Medicare then. He survived — barely. He convalesced in the company of hoboos, "riding the rails" with a motley assortment of bums and other exotic companions. From there it was a natural step, with health restored, to take employment with the railroad and this brought him to Alberta, where he helped lay track west of Edson into the Rocky Mountains. It was after this period of endeavor that he made the transfer to farmer and became a homesteader.

He began farming in the Donalda area in partnership with Knute Collin. This was not always an agreeable arrangement and in the twenties he struck off on his own, farming the land now owned by the Norman Radkes.



Albin Hoffman and his faithful team.



Sawing wood. Back to front — Knute Collin, Albin Hoffman, relative from Hay Lakes.

He was a big man, soft-spoken and gentle-mannered as big men tend to be and the life of old-fashioned farmer suited him. His team of horses — strawberry roans — were the wildest beasts imaginable, needing a constant and firm control. I remember an occasion when I was four when my sun-bonnet blew off, "spooking" the horses and before my father regained control, the devastation to harness and machinery was total and complete. Modern mechanized farming methods made my father nervous and he was happy to make his retirement in 1950.

He enjoyed these last years, puttering in his garden, collecting stamps and cultivating a new circle of friends. He genuinely enjoyed a good discussion and many a door-to-door evangelist, frustrated by a succession of slammed doors, was agreeably surprised to find himself whisked indoors by my father and involved in long theological debate!

He was a good settler for this country. We hold his memory with pride and affection and his old neighbors remember him with respect.

Henry Johnson

Henry, son of Peter and Anna Johnson was born in Selby, South Dakota in 1883. He came with his parents to Alberta in 1902. He was interested in photography and had a studio in Bawlf for a short time. He enjoyed carpentry and built the Norbo school. It was located on his land and later moved. His was the only bid to build the school and was accepted. The school opened in 1906.

Mina Duklet, daughter of Nils and Karen Duklet was born in 1891, in Climax, Minnesota. She came to Canada with her parents in 1902. They settled in the Ferry Point district. Mina worked for Pastor Frojen when she was quite young. Later she worked in Anna Leboe's millinery shop and in her home. It was while working there she met Henry. They were



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Johnson nee Mina Duklet on their wedding day 1911.

married in Bethlehem Church on the 29th of March, 1911. The entire community was invited to the reception. Included in the menu were meat balls and lemon pie.

They made their home on the N.E. 4-43-18-W4. The first years were spent in an older house on the place. Their new home was built in 1915 from lumber salvaged from the Bethany Church which blew down in a wind storm. In the early years they raised sheep. The fleeces were packed in huge bags and shipped.

Dad always enjoyed hunting. Once in the late twenties he took the boys out west of Ponoka to hunt. They went by wagon and team in the late fall. Mom made lots of bread for them to take along. They came back empty handed but had a good time together. They had better luck than one man who thought his horse was game and shot it.

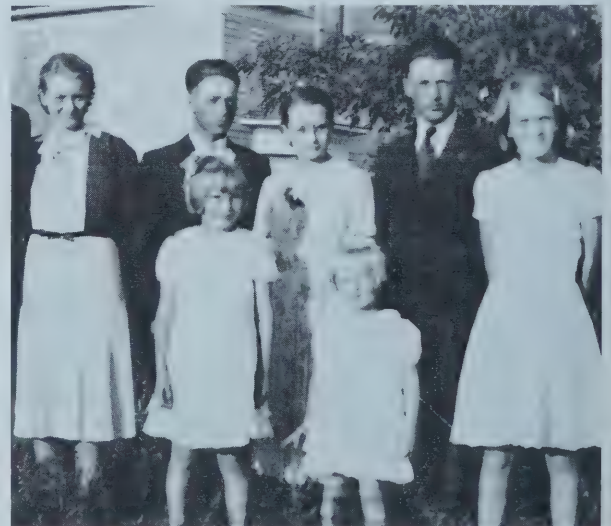
Mom had quite a time getting water from the well with an ornery ram around the yard.

Once she got to the well and couldn't get back to the house. She got into a buggy close by and as the ram charged she put a sack over his head. He left then but had to stop to see the other sheep through the sack. He'd run for them and they'd get scared and scatter. Then he'd have to stop to look and off they went again.

Much of the winter's work was hauling home logs for firewood. They would chop the logs in the brush and haul them home on the sleigh. Towards spring they sawed up the big piles with the tractor and buzz saw. The name didn't describe the sound it made. The women were always glad when this dangerous task was done. Before using, the wood had to be split with an axe. The smell and crackling of the wood fire was cozy.

They had a family of seven children, Clifford, Norman, Dorothy, Doris, Anne Marie, Inez and Alice. Henry died in 1943 and Mina in 1960. Norman died in 1942 and Clifford in 1963. All the girls live in the district and have their own stories, except Inez. She is the wife of Pastor Art Nelson, who serves the Edberg Lutheran Parish. Art and Inez were married in 1953. They have six children, Berniece, Mrs. Barrie Yaremchuk of Edmonton. Berniece and Barrie have a daughter Christine. Ruth, Mrs. Steve Hempler of Edberg. Ruth and Steve have two children, Curtis and Jennifer. Joyce, Mrs. Lyle Dick of Camrose, Anne Marie, Arlene and James.

Things we remember; Ladies Aid picnics with new dresses to wear; bob sleigh rides in winter; taffy pulls; Indians coming and asking for soap and meat; home-made bread disappearing from the cupboard during the depression; candles on the Christmas tree;



The Henry Johnson family 1938. Back row — Doris, Clifford, Dorothy, Norman. Front row — Inez, Alice, Anne-Marie.



Pastor and Mrs. Arthur Nelson and family. Back row: Steve Hempler and Curtis, James, Lyle Dick, Barrie Yaremchuk, Arlene. Middle row: Ruth holding Jennifer, Inez, Arthur, Bernice with Christine. In front: Anne Marie and Joyce.

Dad singing as he split wood in the early winter morning; crying dolls; walking early to school to light the fire; coasting the Norbo hills at noon, then the smell and steaming of mitts and boots drying; play houses in the trees, with apple box furniture and flower trimmed mud cakes; big smudges for mosquitoes while milking; buckets of smoke in school-house door; breaking horses in winter, often they'd take corners too fast and the box would tip off; skiing cross-country to school; sleeping on rag curlers or curling hair with stove poker; filling lunch pails with wild strawberries on the way home from school; scrubbing and boiling clothes; the smell of home-made soap; smooth ride of Bennet wagon; the fun and love of a Christian home.

John O. Johnson

John O. Johnson and wife Moli, along with their seven children moved to Claresholm, in 1905. They moved to the Yetwood district near Lomond, Alberta in 1909. Julia, Joseph and Elvin were born in southern Alberta. Moli died in a farm accident October 27, 1915. Olga, Laura and twin sister Olive were married in southern Alberta. In 1918, John with his other children moved to Donalda, to farm about one half mile east of Bethany Lutheran Church.

Olga married Vern Davies on December 23, 1915. To them was born one daughter Marjorie, who is married to John Morgan and lives at Eaglesham, Alberta.

Laura married Douglas Carter on October 25, 1916. Douglas was related to Wilf Carter, the noted singer. They had one son, George who resides in Edmonton. Douglas died in the flu epidemic of 1918. Laura married William Sturges on October 19, 1920. William was the station agent at Red Willow for a

number of years. They had four children, Ronald, Allan, Marjorie and Jack. William is deceased.

Olive married William McLeod on October 10, 1917. They resided in the Lomond, Alberta area. They had six children, Russel, Melville, Lloyd, Jean, Donald and Eileen. Both are deceased.

Ellen married Irwin Lutz on June 30, 1921. Irwin ran the lumber yard at Red Willow and later at Donalda. They retired to Victoria. They had two children, Earl and Betty.

Bertha married William Gray on December 9, 1930. They farmed at Carmangay for many years. They had three children, Margaret, Jim and Robert. Bertha clerked in several stores in Donalda before managing the Lee store after he retired. They now reside at Vulcan, Alberta.

Ida married Leo Bunch and moved to Berryville, Arkansas. They had four children, Vernon, Carol, Donald, and Juanita. Leo, Ida and Juanita are deceased.

Oscar married Ingeborg Stolee in February 1927. They lived most of their time at Hythe, Alberta, where Oscar was interested in road construction, besides farming. They had three daughters, Isabel, Moli and Emelie. Oscar died in 1960.

Julia married Milton Brown, they lived in Ontario, and Vancouver, before moving to Calgary, where Julia taught school for a number of years and Milton worked at the Technical school. They had one daughter Marilyn. Julia is deceased.

Joseph married Esther Hilde on September 1, 1935. Joseph was interested in many activities. He worked in road construction for three years for the municipality in Donalda, before going to Bible school. His main interest was to preach the gospel. They moved to Calgary in 1948, where he was manager of Bethany Home and Auxiliary Hospital at the same time preaching on Sunday's in various Lutheran churches in Calgary, Lomond, Enchant, Milo, Duchess and Iddesleigh. They moved to Kaslo, British Columbia in 1957, where they operated a guest house until retiring in 1966. They had three children, Esther, David and Pauline. Joe died in 1978.

Elvin married Margarette Provost on June 28, 1949. He lived for many years at Hythe, Alberta where he was engaged in road construction with his brother Oscar. He moved to Whitehorse, Yukon where he presently resides. They had three children, Laura, Melville and Linda.

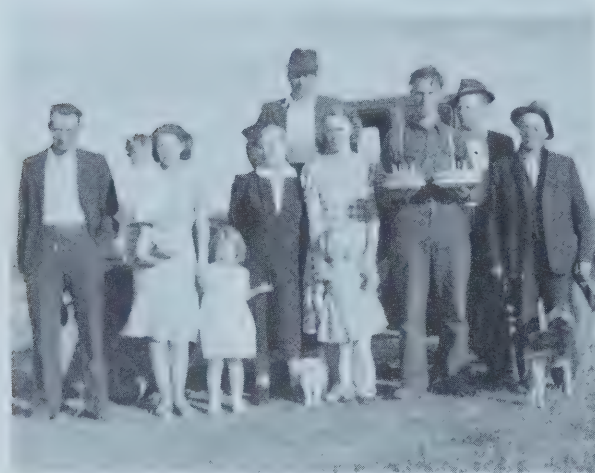
Nels Johnson

Nels Magnus and Selma Amelia Johnson and family arrived in the Norbo district in the fall of 1923, living on the Charlie Anderson place. The family

members were Hugo 20, Beda 15, Ernest 12, Bennie 10 and Maria, married to Gunder Gunderson, a farmer in the Bawlf area.

The family moved all their earthly belongings from the Lundem area in a hayrack and wagon. The loaded wagons had to be skidded down Ferry Point hill by using a log chain from the hind wheel to the axle.

In 1926 Nils and his family returned to the Norbo district to live, purchasing Hudson's Bay Land. He also purchased a garage from Charlie Anderson for living quarters. Hugo remembers it was in poor repair with a leaky roof. The first winter it was so cold the water pail froze solid standing by the stove. Nils repaired and built onto this building a year later.



Nils Johnson, Hans Halseide, Beda Halseide, Anna (4 years old) Selma Johnson, Ernest and Bennie Johnson. Family to the left are Gerner and Jean Olsen and daughters Carol and Valerie, family friends.

Hugo recalls that they started farming with horses and scrap iron. With a democrat and horses it was a day's outing to drive to Meeting Creek for groceries and supplies. At this time Beda went out working. Ernest and Bennie were still in school at Norbo, a mile and a half walk. Closest neighbors were Alfred Anderson, who lived on the Charlie Anderson farm, Albin and Gena Blomgren lived kitty corner from them to the north east, Ted Hagen east and Sam Akland a mile south.

In 1928 Hugo remembers the taxes on the home place was twenty dollars. He worked for the municipality for twenty-four days with four horses (which he supplied) to earn the tax money. That same year number one wheat sold in Meeting Creek for twenty-eight cents a bushel.

In 1935 Beda married Hans Halseide. Bennie served in the army but was not sent overseas. On his return he did some farming, then left home to work

out; finally he settled in Nelson, British Columbia, where he met and married Stella Jackson in 1957.

Hugo and Ernest continued to farm. Ernest also did electrical work in the surrounding districts for thirty years or so, retiring from this in 1978. Ernest continues to do some farming, and Hugo and Ernest continue to live on the home place. Nils passed away in 1960. Selma passed away in 1952. Daughter Maria passed away in 1967 and son Bennie passed away in the fall of 1974.

Len Kneeland

Len Kneeland came to Canada with his parents, Albert and Mary Kneeland in 1901, they settled in the Edberg district, at that time Len was eleven years old. When he was eighteen he took up homesteading.

In 1916 he married Benedicta Sorenson, daughter of the Elvinous Sorensens, to this union were born six children.



25th Anniversary, Sept. 16, 1966. Back row — Harvey, Patsy, Alice, Bruce. Front row — Howard, Donald and Liddy.



Grandma (Mary) Kneeland.

Howard the eldest was born August twenty-ninth, 1917. After growing up he worked around Edberg for a while then when the war broke out he joined the armed forces.

He was married to Liddy Oberg of Meeting Creek on September sixth 1941, to this union six children were born.

Howard and Liddy lived in Edberg for many years where Howard made their living driving truck, hauling coal, grain and gravel.



Lenard, Benidicta, Howard, Ervin, Marvin and Hazel.

In later years they moved to Camrose, Howard is still trucking. Liddy passed away in May, 1979.

Their two eldest sons Melvin and Harvey live in Edmonton.

The eldest daughter Patsy and her two boys Dale and Danny live in Camrose.

Bruce, second son married Mabel Snell. They have two children and live in Camrose.

Alice, second daughter, her husband Larry Nelson and one son Dean also live in Camrose.

Alice Kneeland (Gregorowick)

Alice was born in 1928, went to Norbo school. She enjoyed the Ladies Aid picnics, going to town with 'Dad' in the wagon and team of horses, running down to the river (Battle) after supper with Blouins to swim in that muddy water that the cows were lolling around in all day, the fish 'Dad' used to smoke and we girls would take to school and trade for cake or cookies. She remembers keeping the cream and butter in the well to keep it cool, and dances we enjoyed at the coal mine.

She finished grade eight, and went to work at Olstads by Rosalind. "I think I made \$20.00 and bought Grampa Olstads suitcase with half of that, then I worked at Donalda Hotel, the Ames Store (don't know how long in each one but this was over a

two year period). I came to B.C. in 1947 with Uncle Fred, worked at the Fraser Cafe in New Westminster and P. V. Plant, got married and have six children and five grandchildren all residing in B.C."

Caroline (Kneeland) Cronk

Caroline was born to Leonard and Benedicta Kneeland in 1930 and lived in the Donalda district until 1950. Caroline married John Cronk of Red Willow, Alberta. It was there their son Alfred was born.

In 1951 they moved to Victoria B.C. Then three more children were born; Bonita, Terry, and Rena.

Alfred resides in Victoria, B.C. Bonita married Felix Woodfine. They have one child, Virginia, and are residing in Comox, B.C.

Terry is married to Phyllis (nee Pemberton). They reside in Victoria, B.C. Rena lives at home with her parents in Victoria.

Hazel (Kneeland) Kent

Hazel was the third child of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Kneeland. She married Hubert Kent on June 24, 1938. To this union four children were born; Muriel who is now Mrs. Arthur Otto. They have six children, Leonard is married and has one girl, Virginia is Mrs. Pregetzer and has two girls, and Allan is not married.

Muriel lives at Bruce, Alberta. Leonard in Edmonton, Virginia in Camrose, and Allan is in Edmonton at the present time.

Hazel passed away in 1979.

Ervin Kneeland

I was born here in the Norbo district in the old house that still is there on the S.E. ¼ of 14-43-18-4. Then my father and Alix Stott bought the N.W. ¼ of 12-43-18-4. My father got the north 80 acres of the ¼ and Alix Stott the south 80 acres. We lived there for a short time and then moved to the place that Ovide Blouin owned, it was the east ½ of section 12-43-18-4. We lived there for a few years. Then, my Dad and my uncle Lewis Day built a house on my Dad's 80 acres. Then Ovide Blouin and his family moved back to his 80 acres. By that time I would have been nine years old and if I remember right that would have been 1928. The crops of grain were very good that year but, then came the drought of 1929 and way on in the 1930's. The dust storms were terrible, it would get so dark you would have to light a lamp. I remember some of the crop that was seeded blew out and had to be seeded again. In 1925 and again in 1935 we were hailed out, very large hail stones. In 1932

my mother passed away and it was very rough going for us kids and a lot worse for my Dad. There were six of us kids and my youngest sister Caroline wasn't a year old. I praise my father very highly for what he had to go through to bring us six kids up. I believe that he must of had a lot of help from the Good Lord in order to do what he had to do, but we all grew up and got going on our own.

When I was a boy I spent my spare time with a sling shot and my pockets full of stones to shoot gophers, rabbits, partridges, and ducks. I brought home lots of meat by shooting them with my sling shot. In the spring of the year I hunted magpies and crows eggs and while robbing their nests I would generally shoot one or sometimes even both of the magpies or crows that had the nest. The municipality was paying the kids 2½ cents an egg and 5 cents for a pair of legs. I remember one time when we took the eggs and legs to town to sell them, Mr. Porter said I'm sorry but we have spent all the funds we had for buying eggs and feet so you are out of luck for this year.

When I first helped with the farming I walked behind the harrows all day. Four horses pulled the harrows; I walked behind the walking plow, plowing the field. It was pulled by three horses and then I bought a Sulky plow at Gilbert Haugstads sale. It was a one bottom plow 16 inches laythe. I can remember two different times striking a rock and got thrown off the seat of the plow and landed on the double trees right behind the horses. Luckily I was never hurt out side of a few bruises. This plow was pulled by three horses.

One of the first jobs I had was leading the horse for Walter Roberts cultivating potatoes. He had a patch of potatoes which took all day Saturday to cultivate. He would pay me 25 cents. After about two years he asked me after cultivating all day what he owed me and I said, "Well I should be worth a dollar." After that he hired my brother Marvin. I lost my job.

When 14 years old I worked for Gilbert Haugstad threshing thirteen days at \$2.00 per day. I felt very good with \$26.00 in my pocket.

Stooking bundles in the harvest season was something I always did each fall at home for my father and also for Alfred and Conrad Vikse when they needed help. I always enjoyed helping with the threshing around the district.

My School Days at Norbo

It was one and a half miles to school. We walked most of the time. In the summer time we went bare foot. I was fond of mischief at school so I would get a good licking from the teacher once in a while.

We had lots of fun after the snow came sliding down the hills, with our sleds and skis. I would get the job of fireman a month or two each winter after I got old enough at 10 cents a day.

Winter of 1940-41

I worked one winter in a logging camp. It was five miles west of Wildwood and about 15 miles south. The wages at that time were \$35.00 a month in the bush trimming logs and making roads, and \$32.00 for working in the mill.

In the spring of 1941 I was called to the army, after four months I was discharged so I came home and helped my dad on the farm.

Ervin and Catherine Kneeland

We were married January third, 1942 and lived at Len Kneelands for a few months, then worked for Oscar Olson south of Donalds the spring and summer of 1942. The wages were \$25.00 a month in winter and \$40.00 during the summer months.

In 1945 Ervin started working in the coal mine, first with Bill Jones and later for Tom Mitchinson, also Gerla and Runge. We spent five years at the mines.



Ervin Kneeland family picture 1962. Back row — Shirley, Raymond, Charles and Gene. Front row — Ervin, Catherine and Rita.

During the time we were at Mitchinsons our oldest girl Shirley became school age. There was no school close enough for her to walk to so I gave her grade one lessons by correspondence.

We then decided we would like to farm, so bought a model B Allis Chalmers tractor at \$900.00, a three and one half foot tiller and the N.E. ¼ of 14-43-18 west of the 4th. This land was all heavy bush with only 42 acres cultivated.

When we first started farming we lived in a granary that Anton Peterson helped us build.

A few years later we bought one more quarter and



"Little Allis" Our first tractor. Ervin, Raymond and Shirley.

a 53 acre fraction of land from Martin Anonson which had 25 acres broke. Over the years we had 175 acres brushed and broke. The oldest children, Ervin and I used to pack a lunch, pile on the stone boat and go out for the day picking roots and rocks. In 1953 Ervin bought a 22 inch Waterloo Bell City threshing machine. We used it for threshing our crops and a few for the neighbors until 1969.

In 1960 Ervin bought a Massey Ferguson 65 tractor which was quite an improvement over the "little Allis" we called the old one.

During a lot of these first years we had no car and no phone so if any one got sick or hurt we just did a lot of praying and what ever else we knew how and waited. If things got too bad one of us would have to run to the neighbours to get help. I spent some very long days and nights rocking sick little ones.

My brother Lawrence started building our house in 1955, Lawrence, his wife Ethel and their two sons Graham and Shaune would come, pitch a tent and stay a few days at a time while Lawrence worked on the house.

Our closest neighbors were Martin and Etta Anonson. We spent many happy hours visiting them. Etta was badly crippled with arthritis but she did a lot of fancy work. Martin just loved to play his violin.

A neighbor, who came in those first years by horseback and later by car, I was always very happy to see was Esther Vikse. I didn't often have a woman to chat with and enjoyed her company. We are very happy to have this neighbor back in this district at the present time after being away for a few years.

When our sons bought Jack Cook's land we

bought a four wheel drive Steiger Wild-Cat tractor which really sped up our farming activities. Combining has been our way of harvesting for some time now.

Ervin has raised a lot of hogs over the years and keeps about twenty cows on what pasture we have. He also enjoys hunting muskrat, beaver and deer so we have eaten our share of venison.

Our eldest daughter Shirley went to school at Norbo and Meeting Creek, took grade 12 at Camrose Lutheran College. She spent two years at C.L.B.I. and then started her nurses training at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. On July 5, 1965 she married Donald Peterson. They had one daughter Carman. Four short years after their marriage Shirley passed away.

Our three sons Raymond, Charles, and Gene have written their own stories which will appear in this book.

Our second daughter Rita was born at St. Marys Hospital Camrose July 23rd, 1953. She attended school at Meeting Creek a few short years before she was stricken with shilders disease. Rita spent some time in the University and General hospitals in Edmonton, also one year at Glenrose. Following this Rita spent the last fourteen years in Bethany Hospital, Camrose, Alberta. Rita was a very happy child and always had a smile for everyone.

Rita passed away at Bethany Hospital on June 1st, 1979 at the age of twenty five years.

Our youngest daughter Susan who is still at home with us attended Meeting Creek school through grade eight and now goes to Edberg. Susan enjoys playing the piano, singing, painting, also crochets and knits alot.

Carman a grandchild who became our chosen daughter a few years after her mother (Shirley) passed away is also at home with us and attending Meeting Creek school. Carman enjoys sports, going for walks, a ride on the combine, and watching T.V.

At present we have seven grandchildren.

Raymond Kneeland

Born in Camrose October 24, 1944 second child of Ervin and Catherine Kneeland.

My first memories are from the time we were living at the Mitchinson mine, situated in the Paulson Coulee east of Donalda. Dad was working in the mine at the time. Some things I remember from there are; falling in a cactus patch on the hillside, being scared to death of Andrew Paulson, (blind brother of Otto Paulson) because of the cane and the tapping to find his way along the roads, the slack heating and burning under the tippie, Pebbles backing over the



Raymond Kneeland Family. Raymond and Patricia with children L-R — Matthew, Teresa, Jodi and Clinton.

edge of a pile of slack and tripping his truck over, and borrowing Pebbles' car to go to Aunt Caroline (Kneeland) and Uncle Johnnies (Cronk) wedding. The car was a pretty fancy machine compared to the 1928 Chev that Dad drove, which would not start when it was time to go to the wedding. We were late and the wedding was over when we got there.

Dad bought a small Allis Chalmers tractor and prepared to start farming, on a $\frac{1}{4}$ section of land purchased for \$1,600.00. We moved to the farm 12 miles north east of Donalda in 1950. We lived in a rather old fashioned house consisting of one room resembling a large granary; we later added another "granary" for a kitchen.

I started school at Norbo in Sept. 1950. Don Green was the teacher at that time and stayed for three years. Grade four was my last year at Norbo. Miss Johnson (Alice Rude) was the teacher for part of the year and Miss Strome for part of the year. There was from grades one to nine at Norbo, all in a single room. The Norbo school was closed in 1954 and we were sent by bus to Meeting Creek. This was quite an experience after walking two and one half miles every day to Norbo. Our first year in Meeting Creek we spent in an old church (since removed) located at the bottom of the west hill. Mrs. Archibald was the teacher. Next year we moved to the new school on

the hill. I continued my education through grade twelve there.

After finishing school I worked for Harvey and Alfred Vikse on their farm, for Luverne Anderson running cat, for County of Camrose on the road building crew and for Otto Streberg on his farm. In Dec. 1963 I went to work in the oil fields on a seismograph crew. I continued in this field for ten and one half years, living in Edmonton and working all over Alberta, B.C. and the Northwest Territories. I went into partnership on two seismic rigs with Ole Mortenson in 1966 and we remained partners until 1974.

During this time I met Pat Rock and we were married at Bethany Lutheran Church, Donalda on August 24, 1968.

Our oldest son Matthew was born March 3, 1971. I was working at Caroline at the time and made an all night trip to Edmonton's Royal Alex Hospital to see him and Pat. I was back at work the next morning at seven o'clock, very tired, but happy.

Our first daughter Teresa was born Jan. 8, 1973 at the Royal Alex Hospital. This time I was half way between Norman Wells and Fort Good Hope in the Northwest Territories. I didn't make it home that night. Teresa was twenty-one days old when I got home to see her.

In 1974 my two younger brothers and I bought the Jack Cook farm at Donalda, I moved Pat and our family to the farm in April of that year.

I gave up my partnership with Mr. Mortenson at this time. My brothers and I formed a new company; "Kneeland Bros. Enterprises Ltd.," and continued in the seismic industry, also adding other things as we went on.

After moving to the farm two more children were born, Clinton on Feb. 11th, 1975 and Jodi on Oct. 9th, 1976. Clinton was born in the Camrose hospital and Jodi at Bashaw.

At the time of writing Matthew is eight years old and in grade three at Donalda school. Teresa is six and in grade two. Clinton is four and Jodi two years old and enjoying themselves on the farm.

We are farming the Cook place and renting some from our uncle Marvin. Besides the farm, we are still involved in seismic exploration, have two custom feedlot cleaning crews; a gravel truck and a few other odds and ends. My brothers, Charles and Gene are still involved with me in all these operations.

My wife Pat, myself and our family very much enjoy being back in the country and on the farm northeast of Donalda. We do not miss the city life and hope to be able to remain an active part of the Donalda Community for many years to come.

Charles Earl Kneeland

I was born in 1952 on the twenty second day of January. I'm told, though I cannot remember that it was rather cold about that time. The roads were not any too good then so I was hauled home from Marvin's in a wagon behind the tractor.

The first thing that I remember was a John Deere show in Donalda at about the age of two. Also at two or three I started travelling to the fields, to town etc. with my Father Ervin and never missed a day or a chance till I started school. School for me was in Meeting Creek, it was not what I would call the best part of my life, though giving the teachers a bad time was rather enjoyed most of the time, even by the teachers.

I left school at the age of sixteen to make a living of my own, although before leaving school I worked for Harry Collin in the summer holidays for part of two summers. When leaving school I went to work for Oil Era Drilling Ltd., a seismograph drilling company. Then later moving on to a soil investigation company called Mobile Augers and Research Ltd. A lot of travelling was done with this company which I quite enjoyed. Our work was done in Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Yukon and the Arctic Islands. Later leaving this job to start in business on my own with two brothers Ray and Gene as partners. We do seismic work and custom feedlot cleaning mainly. This company we are still all involved with, along with a partnership farm.

I have been married for two and one half years and have one little girl, Jenifer. My wife who was formerly Lee Ann Switzer, is employed at St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose as Night Supervisor.

Gene Ervin Kneeland

Born March 31, 1955, St. Mary's Hospital, Camrose, Alberta.

From this time on I have lived most of my life near Donalda, in the Norbo school district.

I do not remember too many things or older people in our district. I do remember Martin and Etta Anonson who lived about one mile from my folks place, though. One reason I remember these people is Martin had an old car he used to bring over. One particular time while Martin and Etta were having coffee I was busy helping out by trying to fill up their gas tank, with, if you believe it, "Slop". I suppose it was for the hogs but I did not know what cars ran on. Luckily for Martin and his car I got caught before I got any in the tank.

I spent nine years going to school in Meeting Creek, then went to Edberg, for part of one year. This

was enough school for me so I decided to work instead. I spent some time working for Leonard Sjostrom and Harvey Vikse. I worked on my Dad's farm raising pigs until I was almost seventeen years old. At this point I decided there was not enough money in pigs. I went to work for Mobile Augers and Research, in 1972. I worked there for most of three years and spent a lot of time in the Northwest Territories, the Arctic, and also a little in Alaska.

In the fall of 1973 my two brothers, Charles and Ray, and myself formed our own Company which is known as Kneeland Bros. Enterprises.

To start with we were involved in construction of fences for the highways. Later on in the second winter, we became involved in seismic which we have been doing since that time. For the past four summers we have also been of service to the farmers with a Custom Corral Cleaning Operation. In 1973 we acquired the Jack Cook farm which is located near Ibsen School house. Here we have a mixed farming situation, consisting of mostly hogs and grains.

Up until November 1977 I went through life as a single, then I got married. I met my wife, Lynn (Sampson) in a restaurant in Camrose where she worked as a waitress. Well, things seemed to go pretty smooth so we decided to get married. Now Lynn and I have a wonderful fourteen month old girl, Lisa Marie. When we first got married we lived in Camrose, in a house trailer. After the first winter we moved back out to my Dad's farm, northeast of Donalda, which put me a lot closer to my work.

Some time in the near future we hope to do a little mixed farming ourselves. This would put me a lot closer to my family and would sure be a change from all the working away from home. To me one of the most important things in life is being close to ones family.

Ed Kvemshagen

by Beatrice Kvemshagen

We moved to the Donalda district in 1969 from Edmonton. Previous to that, we had lived in Winnipeg and Saskatoon.

Our children had always enjoyed country living and the farm animals when we visited the farm so we decided it was a good place to raise a family.

When I was nursing in Saskatoon, I met Ed who was then working for the Hudson Bay Co. Shortly after, he entered the Pharmaceutical business and has worked in that field ever since.

He is presently the Manager of Western Canada for Sandoz Pharmaceutical. He is kept busy with that and is also doing some farming and cattle raising. He has to be away quite a bit of the time. When we



Ed. Kvemshagen family. Forrest, Ed, Kathy, Beatrice, Grant, Ward.

moved out the children were quite young but they did the cattle chores and have been very good at helping with calving and field work.

After high school Kathy attended C.L.B.I. in Camrose and got her Bachelor of Education in Edmonton. She is now working as a researcher for Arnold Malone in Ottawa which she finds very interesting.

Grant attended Bible School at Outlook, Saskatchewan after high school. This past September he married Lorna Ness of Camrose. They are both attending University of Alberta.

Forrest attended Outlook Bible School after high school and is now working for the Federal Government in Edmonton in Supply and Services.

Ward also went to Outlook for Bible School after high school and is now working for Banks Drilling of Leduc.

The Roy Lunds

The Roy Lunds came to the Norbo District of Donalda in the spring of 1924. Roy and his brother-in-law bought a half section across the road from the Norbo School. This land was later bought by Palmer Hagen. With Roy came his wife Violet and their children Melvin, Cecil, George and Lucille.

Roy Lund was born in Harlam, North Dakota, U.S.A. on December 9, 1894. His father, Olaf Lund, was born in Sweden and his mother, Raechel Johnson, was born in Norway. Olaf and Raechel arrived in the U.S. in 1881. In later years Olaf worked on the railroad in North Dakota. It is our understanding that he died in 1898, while unloading railway ties.

In 1903 Raechel Lund moved with her younger children to Blackfalds, Alberta, where she opened a boarding house. An older son, Herb, was at that time homesteading north of Bashaw. While their mother

was in Blackfalds, Roy and his brother worked on the Henry Neis Farm. During this time they attended George School on an irregular basis.

1905 brought the family together, as Raechel homesteaded on the quarter next to her son Herb. Roy was among those who broke this land for her. In later years Roy worked for farmers in this and the Stettler areas.

Violet was born in the then town of Lamerton, north of Mirror. Her father, Frank Graham, was born in Michigan, U.S.A., and her mother, Hattie Eunice Stothard, was born in New York. Her parents had just arrived from Yorkshire, England. Frank and Hattie came to Alberta from Ontario in 1892. They first farmed in the Chigwell area east of Lacombe. Later they homesteaded north of Nevis.

Frank Graham wanted all of his children to have an education. For this reason, his wife and children would spend the school year in Lamerton. During the summer holidays the family would return to the



The Roy Lund family 1960. L to R — George, Olive, Cecil, Melvin Raymond, Lucille, Leonard. Seated — Violet and Roy.

homestead. Violet attended South Buffalo Lake School.

Roy and Violet were married January 22, 1918 in Stettler. Roy was called into the army in Calgary for a short period in 1918. Their first child, Melvin, was born in the Stettler Hospital in October, 1918. During the next few years Roy worked on the railroad in Mirror, Hanna, Big Valley and Drumheller — wherever and whenever there was work. Three more children were born during these years: Cecil in Mirror in 1920, George in Hanna in 1922, and Lucille in Mirror in 1924. Following the amalgamation of the railways, Roy was unemployed. It was at this time that he bought the land at Donalda. While he prepared for the arrival of his family, they stayed on his mother's homestead.

It was an inauspicious beginning, as they were hailed out in 1924. However, in September of that year, Melvin began at the Norbo School with Annie

Vikse as his teacher. Cecil and George began school in 1926 and 1928 respectively. Two children were born while the family was in the Donalda area — Raymond in 1927 and Leonard in 1930. They attended Bethany Lutheran Church, three miles away.

While we lived there, (Melvin) learned that pigs could swim. One spring day, as I followed a creek, I came across a sow and her piglets. I stepped out of the bush and startled them. They all scurried into the creek and swam across.

I also recall a summer day, as Dad and I were taking cream into Donalda. As we started down the north side of the coulee, eight gallons of cream came running to the front of the wagon. As we were planning to go to a ball game between Ibsen and Norbo Schools, we simply turned around and headed for the ball game. The real winners that day were the dogs fortunate enough to be there, who spent the afternoon licking up the cream.

We had a dog of our own, which was a favorite with the children. It had followed Dad home from Donalda. In a short time we children had the dog well trained. We would persuade certain visitors to feed the pigs while we went for the cows. Then, while hiding in the bush, we would send the dog to bring the cows while we sat and waited.

On summer days, Cecil and I would walk two and a half miles north to visit our friend Walter Olson. The three of us would spend the day on the banks of the Battle River and not even get our feet wet.

The depression years were to spell the end to our years in the region. Where in 1928 Roy had harvested two thousand bushels of wheat, in 1929 he harvested fifty bushels. Thus in the spring of 1930, the family moved back to the homestead north of Bashaw, where their last child was born — Olive in 1937.

In 1940 Melvin and Cecil enlisted with the Calgary Highlanders and in 1942 George enlisted with the Calgary Tanks. Melvin and Cecil served in England and were both wounded in France. George was in Italy and Northwest Europe. All three were returned safely.

At home, Roy began railroading once again. For a time, the family remained on the farm. Later all moved into Mirror. Violet suffered a stroke in 1951, which left her disabled. In 1954, Roy and Violet lost their home in Mirror and all their possessions in a fire. Some of the most tragic losses included things like pictures and mementoes, many dating to the years spent in Donalda. Violet passed away in 1962.

Melvin joined the Canadian National Railway in April 1945. As a result of the closure of the Canadian National in Mirror, he was transferred to Edmonton, where he is still employed.

Cecil, having lost three fingers overseas, did

desk work in Red Deer for a number of years. He later worked as a dispatcher for Haliburton Oil. He died in Calgary in 1967.

George was with the C.N.R. for a number of years. He now resides in Mirror and works for Lamcombe Nurseries.

Lucille is married and lives on a farm near Bawlf, Alberta. She works in the Bethany Auxiliary Hospital in Camrose.

Raymond left home to work in Red Deer in the late 1940's. In 1952 he joined the post office there, where he is still working.

Leonard went to Ontario on a Harvest Excursion Train in the late 1940's. While in Ontario he got a job surveying and presently lives in Toronto.

Olive worked as a secretary in Red Deer for some years. She and her family now live in Mirror.

Roy Lund is residing in the Bethany Auxiliary Hospital in Camrose and has many happy memories of the years he and his family spent in the Donalda area.

Oscar E. Olsen

by Bertha (Olsen) Hanson

Mr. Oscar E. Olsen and his brother Hagbert, came to Alberta from South Dakota in 1901. They filed on homesteads, S.W. 22-43-18 W4, and then went back to South Dakota.

In the spring of 1902 they came back and built a log house. Later his wife Agnes along with her father John A. Blomgren came to Canada. His father Gun-der Olsen and his mother, Peter Olsen and wife, and Gilbert Haugstad and his wife, also a number of



John Hanson and Bertha Olsen's wedding day.

neighbors and friends followed from dried out South Dakota, and took up homesteads. They later bought land from the C.P.R.

To Oscar and Agnes Olsen's family were added; Bertha who married John H. Hanson. They had a daughter Maxine Wudel who lives in Calgary. They had two children: Patricia who is a researcher for the Federal Government, and Donald who is a manager of Reilly McCormick stores. Geneva: a nurse who passed away in Chicago, at the age of twenty-two. Lenora, who married Donald Ganton. They live in Vancouver, and Palm Springs, California. They have two sons, Gerald and Ronald who live in Vancouver. Alma: who married Oscar Jerstad. She passed away at an early age. They had a daughter, Berniece Jerstad, who lives in Edmonton. Olivia: who married Fred M. Sutherland who died in 1974. She lives in Vancouver and Palm Springs. They had two sons Robert and Dale. Robert passed away in 1973, and Dale lives in Los Angeles. Angus, who lives in Edmonton and Palm Springs. Geraldine: who married Michael Sorochan. They live in Vancouver.

The pioneers had many hardships. Many lost their horses from swamp fever, from wading and eating grass from the sloughs which they were not used to from the dry Dakota plains, so they had to use oxen to work their lands.

There were lots of wild berries, fish and game. Partridges, prairie chickens and rabbits for those who liked them.

In those days it was far to market and doctor.



Oscar Olsen's 84th Birthday.

Wetaskiwin was the closest town. Prairie fires were a constant threat, and large swarms of mosquitoes presented a constant source of annoyance for both people and stock.

It was far to school, and wild ranch cattle were a worry as they were not used to seeing people. Ovide Blouin, our neighbor, who lived one half mile away, had wild cattle roaming over the unfenced land. One day when one of his wild bulls saw the new white tent that Dad and Mother lived in, until their new house was completed and the white sheets Mother had spread on the grass to dry after a heavy rain, he became enraged and went for the sheets, pawing and ripping them in pieces, he then attacked the tent. When our dog Shep thought it had gone too far, he grabbed the bull by the tail and hung on, being swung around and around, until the bull decided he had enough, and with a bellow he took off.

I well remember how our grandfather Olsen would have Sunday school at our house for we children, the Sorensens, who were our neighbors, and the other neighbor's children. When we were older we would hitch the horses to the democrat and all go to the Ferry Point Church which was organized in 1905 by my grandfather and father, and other members of the neighborhood.

Peter Olsen Family

Peter Olsen and his two brothers came from South Dakota to file on homesteads in the year 1901. The land location was north of Donalds or south east of the Ferry Point Trading Post. Ferry Point consisted of a general store, Post Office, blacksmith shop, hall and hotel.

Peter Olsen married Martha Ellefson. Oscar E. Olsen married Agnes Blomgren. Hagbert Olsen remained single. They settled on their land in 1902.



The Hans Ellefsons' daughter, Mrs. Dina Olsen.



Mrs. Pete Olsen and her mother Mrs. Hans Ellefson.

Peter on S.E. 22-43-18-w4, Oscar on S.W. 22-43-18-w4, and Hagbert on N. W. 16-43-18-w4.

Peter and Martha Olsens family consisted of one daughter Mabel, who passed away in infancy, another daughter Evelyn, born in Alberta, died at the age of three years. Four sons and three daughters were all born in Alberta. Marion (Mrs. Roy Anderson) deceased. Alpha (Mrs. Romeo Dubois) Calgary. Vila (Mrs. Larry Larson) Edmonton. Gerner (deceased) married Jean Olsen Dinant, who lives in Red Deer. Melvin (deceased) married Mildred Anderson, who lives in Camrose. Herman and Walter, who farm and live on the homestead. All the children received their education at Norbo school.

The house was built from logs with a sod roof. The other buildings were built from logs also. Later a frame house and barns were built.



The Pete Olsen family: Herman, aunt Lille Olsen, Gerner, Melvin, Walter, Vila, Alpha, Marion, Mrs. Martha Olsen, Mr. Pete Olsen.

The Church was at Ferry Point. The nearest hospital was at Bawlf and the district nurse was Mrs. Chris Sorenson. Neighbors were Elvinous Sorenson family, Oscar E. Olsen, Hagbert Olsen and Blomgrens.

Hans and Martha Ellefson and their two daughters, Mrs. Peter Olsen (Martha) and Mrs. John Olsen (Dena), homesteaded in the Meeting Creek district. Their folks started a general store in 1902, located two and a half miles east of the present Meeting Creek. They operated for a number of years, until his death, then they sold the store and stock to O. M. Vikse and B. A. Vikse who started a general store in Donalda. The land was sold to Mr. Plahn. Mrs. Ellefson moved to Donalda to reside.

Peter Olsen's mother and father were Mr. and Mrs. Gunner Olsen. Their homestead was N.W. 22-43-18-W4. They were active in Ferry Point Church work and other groups.

Melvin Olsen Family

Mildred Josephine Anderson was born December 6, 1908, in the Armena district and moved with her parents to the Norbo district, "Donalda", in 1925. She met Melvin Edgar Olsen who was born May 9, 1906 and died May 30, 1953. They were married 3 November 1928 and farmed in the Ferry Point District. To them were born 4 children, Eunice, Ronald, Glenice and Donna.

Eunice Margene — born 20 July, 1930 and Everet Francis Batke — born 9 December 1927 were married 3 November 1948. They farm in the Ferry Point district. Born to them 4 children Daniel, Douglas, Diane and Bette.

Daniel Wayne was born 18 February 1953 and Lois Ann Winder born 29 November were married the 2nd of February 1974. Born to them three children Shonna Lynn — born 15 October 1974. Darren Troy — born 30 January 1975 (died 9 May 1975) Derrick Daniel — born 4 August 1976.

They reside in Camrose.

Douglas Keith was born 18 February 1958 and Linda Luckwell — born 8 April 1958 were married 8 July 1978. They reside in Lacombe.

Diane Marie — born 2 February 1960 is at home. Bette Ann — born 12 March 1961 is also at home.

Ronald Wayne — born September 1, 1934 and Jeneanne Sharon Ermel — born 6 May 1941 were married 29 July 1963. Born to them three children Gordon Melvin on 24 January 1964. Leslie William on 9 March 1967. Kelly Raymond born 17 July 1970. They reside in Vernon B. C.

Glenice Karen — born 28 September 1938 resides in Calgary.

Donna Lorraine — born 11 June 1941 and Wilfred Neigum — born 9 October 1936 were married 17 May 1958. Born to them were 3 boys and 2 girls Dwaine Melvin — born 29 August 1958. James Martin — born 13 August 1959. Sherry Louise — born 15 January 1961. Patsy Lynn — born 19 December 1962. Donald Terry — born 4 September 1965. They reside in Kelowna, B.C. Mildred resides in Stony Creek Lodge, Camrose.

John Olstad Story

Mr. and Mrs. John Olstad Sr. emigrated to Canada from Ringsaker, Norway. John Jr., second eldest of nine children, was born at New Norway on June 27, 1904. Here they resided for four years of schooling. They returned to New Norway in 1917.

He was united in marriage to Ardella Buckle (daughter of Herman and Viola Buckle of Rosalind) in 1937.

In 1941 they moved with their children, Connie and Marlene, to the Hagen estate, where they farmed for two years.

In 1943 they purchased their own half section that bordered the Battle River. Here Marilyn was born.

Connie and Marlene were taught correspondence by their mother until they started going to Norbo School in 1947. When the girls were registered — Connie in grade five, Marlene in grade three, and Janice in grade one — the teacher also wondered what grade their mother was in! Johnnie enjoyed telling this incident for many years. Sharon started grade one in 1949. Marilyn was born in September 1949. In 1952 the family moved to Rosalind, where their two youngest daughters, Linda and Shelley, were born.

Connie, the eldest, is married to Fred Herder of Rosalind. They have five children: Virginia, Sheila,



Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Olstad in 1943 taken at her parents' home the Herman Buckles by the river.

Dixie, Calvin, and Jay. Virginia married Brad Kroetsch of Forestburg. They have two sons, Jason and Kory. Sheila works in Calgary, Dixie is married to Dan Shielke of Ohaton, Cal and Jay are at home. They all graduated from Rosalind School.

Marlene married George Brausen of Heisler. They reside in New Norway, where George is a mechanic and Marlene is post-mistress. They have four children. Cindy and Jacalyn graduated from New Norway High School and are working in Camrose. Dennis and Cathy are at home.

Janice married Dalles Schweer. They live in



Johnny Olstad with his five daughters, 1949. Connie, Marlene, Janice, Sharon and Marilyn.

Camrose and have two daughters, Denise and Debbie.

Sharon is married to Vic McCarroll of Daysland. They both taught school for several years before moving to the farm.

Linda married Ivan Benson of Rosalind. They have two children, Pride and Holly.

Shelley, the youngest daughter, married Dirk McCarroll of Daysland in November 1978.

John dug wells for approximately fifty years. He worked for Dresser Minerals in Rosalind, part time for about fifteen years and full time for six or seven years. He retired in June of this year (1979) at 75 years of age. John and Ardella are custodians of the Rosalind school. Ardella started oil painting three years ago and has done several beautiful landscapes.

Norman Radke Family

Norman and Doris moved into the Norbo district in March, 1954, first renting and then buying the A. Hoffman farm. Norman met his wife, the former Doris Collin, while she was teaching in his home district in the Big Timber (Bashaw) area. In 1952 they were married, and five children were born into their home: Dwayne, Melody, Wendy, Gloria, and Mark.

In the early years Norman kept hounds and enjoyed coyote hunting on horseback; then his wife took up horticulture and the hounds had to go!

One time (on June 30, 1970) the farmyard was nearly inundated by a freak flood, brought about by six inches of rain in two days. Since the barnyard is down in a valley, the entire flat was flooded by the



Norman Radke family; Melody, Doris, Norman, Wendy, Mark, Gloria, Dwayne.

overflowing creek. Water ran three feet deep through the barn. At 10:00 P.M. Wayne Anderson was driving by when he noticed the flood waters and alerted the unsuspecting family. He and Harry Collin helped empty the barn of baby chicks and young pigs. Next morning the horses were still standing neck deep in water on a little knoll, not daring to swim to safety because of a barb wire fence. This flood took place because an old bridge had been replaced with an eight foot culvert. It didn't take long before a second eight foot culvert was installed.

Since Norbo school was now closed, the Radke children received their elementary education in Meeting Creek and their high school in Edberg. The family attends Bethany Lutheran Church.

Dwayne attended Camrose Lutheran College, and University in Edmonton and Toronto. He is presently employed as a Social Worker with Alberta Social Services and Community Health, and is based at Wainwright.

Melody attended the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute for two years before her marriage to David Brager. The couple lives in Camrose with their young son Erroll. Dave is active partner in Brager Transport.

Wendy also spent two years at C.L.B.I., then later she became a registered nursing assistant. She and her husband, Bruce Enarson, live in Camrose. Bruce is apprenticing as a carpenter and Wendy is employed at St. Mary's Hospital.

Gloria, after completing high school, worked as a volunteer for the Salvation Army at Sunbury Court in Middlesex, England. Later she took a course in Secretarial Sciences at Red Deer College.

Mark is still at home, attending high school in Edberg. His main hobbies are electronics and motor cycling.

Ann (Hoffman) Stacey

After spending a short time in the teaching profession, Ann joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. Here she met her future husband, Bert Stacey. After their marriage, the couple served with the forces overseas, living on the R.C.A.F. station at Zweibrücken, Germany. Presently, they live in Selkirk, Manitoba.

Ann is a freelance writer and artist, and has had illustrated articles and stories published in many magazines and newspapers.

Bert and Ann have six children:

Jim, a graduate in Honors Physics, is working for Ontario Hydro in nuclear energy research.

Alan is engaged in arctic flying with a geological crew.



The Stacey Bunch: Bert, Jim, Doug, Geoff, Debbie, David, Ann, and Alan.

Geoff, an electronics technologist, is in charge of Hudson's Bay Mining and Smelting computer system at Flin Flon, Manitoba.

Deborah, (dean's honor list) is in her second year of Engineering at the University of British Columbia.

Douglas is in first year Engineering at the University of Manitoba.

David is in high school.

Elvinous Thorvald Sorenson Family as told by daughter, Vita Seidel

Elvinous Sorenson immigrated to Canada in 1909, from Denmark. Transportation over was by freight boat, that took over 30 days to cross the Atlantic.

He came to the Norbo district to his brothers



Mr. and Mrs. Chris Sorenson, great uncle and aunt of Ervin Kneeland.

place, the Christian Sorenson's, which was just over the hill from Norbo School. That fall he walked to Daysland to file on his homestead. After getting the paper work done he started for home, darkness fell and he realized he was lost after passing the same haystack three times. It was cold and he was hungry, he knew suffering could come from the cold. Soon he saw a small light in the distance so he headed that way. As he came near the place dogs barked and a man opened the door. Elvinous spoke only Danish. They motioned him in and let him sleep on the floor by the heater. In the morning he showed them his papers. They gave him breakfast and sent him on his way.

In 1910, his wife Karoline and their seven daughters arrived from Denmark. Matilda 14 years, Bertha 12, Benedicta 10, Thora 8, Laura 6, Erna 4, Vita 2. Another daughter had passed on in Denmark, before they left for Canada.

The homestead house was not complete the first year, so they lived in a little loghouse belonging to Ovide Blouin. The three older girls went out to work for two dollars a month and sent the money home so the family could buy groceries. In 1911 they moved to their own house, a log building with one room downstairs and one upstairs.



Elvinous and a friend.

Their first horse "Daisy" was bought for one hundred and fifty dollars. She pulled the buggy, but refused to work in the field just laid down. No one

could get her up or make her move. Later they got a team of horses and a walking plow and the breaking of the land began. A well was dug.

In a few years the older girls were young ladies, and on Sundays the young men came courting, using horses for transportation. They always asked if the old man was home, but they never went to the barn or the field to find him.

Norbo school was the place for education and we walked to school. While crossing Peter Olsen's pasture a mad bull chased us on occasion. Sometimes we had to climb a tree to save our lives. Mr. Samuel Steele was our teacher. On Fridays we played games, one of which was called hounds and hares. The hares cut small pieces of paper and left a trail. Ten minutes later the hounds would come to find them. We also played croquet. Every day two pupils



Elvinous Thorvald Sorenson family. L to R— Benidicta, Thora and Bertha on horseback. In sled Laura, Vita, Erna, at the back Elvinous and Karoline.

would go to the well and bring back the days water supply.

Our closest neighbours were, Peter Olsens, Oscar Olsens, Blomgrens, Bjorges, Hagens and Stolees. I remember going to vacation Bible school for two weeks at the Bethany Church. Constance Stolee was the teacher. Shortly after that she left for Madagascar to be a missionary.

Our mother was a good gardener so we had lots of vegetables, and she also made good homemade bread. We ate lots of rabbits. Our sheets, pillow cases and under clothes were made from flour sacks.

Peter Olsen had the first car in the district, Dad, Erna and I had a ride in it. Peter's brother was along and was so scared, telling Peter to slow down. We were going about five miles per hour, but he was ready to jump out.

The nearest store was Ferry Point. Mr. Beard was the owner. At Christmas time he gave each family a box of chocolates. After his store closed we had to drive to Donalda for groceries.

At Christmas mother always had all the bachelors in for supper.

We attended church at Bethany, north of Donalda. I remember Rev. Tveit and Mr. Neilson as Ministers.

Our nearest doctors were at Daysland and Donalda. I remember mother being ill and Chris Hanson come to visit. He took her and my sister Thora by buggy to Daysland, where they caught the train to Camrose. Mother had a ruptured appendix, and spent the next 30 days in the hospital, a four room one. Mary Hanson was the nurse and Dr. Nordvie the doctor.

Mother used to help deliver babies, Mr. Blomgren came for her and had an extra horse for her to ride. Mother refused to climb on the horse, so they had to get Mrs. Bjorge. Mother cooked for Mr. Blouins threshers. Erna and I were along. We would catch mice, Mr. Blouin gave us each a dollar bill, our very first one. Mr. Blouin wore a toque at night as he did not have much hair. We laughed about the toque he kept hid under his pillow. Our only fruit was dried apples, prunes and wild berries that grew on the hills.

Dad sold the homestead to Peter Olsen and purchased the Jens Jerstad farm where they lived for many years. Mother passed away in 1931 and dad in 1938. The girls grew up in the district and married. Matilda to Dan McRae; she passed away in 1978. Bertha to Rier Reirson, she passed away in 1955. Benedicta to Lenard Kneeland, she passed away in 1932. Thora to Victor Lindquist, she passed away in 1930. Laura to Arthur Rasmussen, he passed away, she later married Melvin Nystrom. Laura passed away in 1976. Erna to Oscar Olson, she passed away in 1974. Vita to Ansil Johnson, he passed away and she married Carl Seidel. They reside at Oliver, B.C. Descendants of Elvinous and Karolina live in Alberta, B.C. and points in the U.S.A.

B. J. Stolee

story as told by Peter B. Stolee

Brynhjolf J. Stolee was born near Haugsund, Norway, the third child and oldest son of a farmer. The land was able to produce only the barest necessities, but they had a water driven grist mill. Their living had to be supplemented by fishing, often for the herring when it came in to the coast.

Sharing with an uncles's boat crews for a couple of seasons Brynhjolf realized that fishing, the only work available, was too uncertain a living. When one of the two uncles (who had immigrated to S.E. Minnesota some years earlier) followed the railroads built north along the Red River Valley, to homestead, came home for a visit in the winter of 1882-3,



The B. J. Stolee Family. Back row — August, Hannah, Peter, Agnes, Alice, Selmer. Front row — Mike, Constance, Ingeborg, Jacob.

Brynhjolf decided to follow him back. He borrowed \$65, the price of S.S.&R.R. ticket, from Norway to Kelso, Dakota Territory from the Haugesund Bank. He and his uncle Halvor Rover, arrived in Kelso, April 24th 1883.

Brynhjolf was then 17 years old and worked as a farm hand for the next four seasons. He learned to drive oxen, then the most usual draught animals on pioneer farms. He would get up before daybreak, yoke the four oxen and plow until near ten; then unyoke the team to graze and rest until late afternoon when they would take a second turn. Brynhjolf had the happy ability of sleeping whenever he wished, even in daytime. In winter there were no wages to be earned so he attended the public school for three months, then four months. He had the good fortune of having a very good teacher, a Scotch-Canadian, so he made good progress in English.

The spring of 1887, Brynhjolf and a cousin each bought a yoke of oxen and one covered wagon together, then set out for Emmons Co. Dakota Ter. which two years later became Emmons County, North Dakota. Here there was still homestead land to



The B. J. Stolee family. Back row — Peter, Constance, Agnes. 2nd row — Jacob, Hannah. 3rd row — Dad, Selmer, Mother. Front — Ingeborg, August, Michael, Alice.

be had. He settled and helped his parents and many of his family to come.

In 1894 he married Anna Peterson from Larvik, Norway. In North Dakota five children, Peter, Jacob, Constance, Agnes and Hannah were born. Jacob died as a baby. In 1902 Anna's poor health and the dry climate decided them to settle sixty miles south-east of Wetaskiwin, North-West Territory, where they came June 1902. The Ferry Point Store was built by George P. Smith in July of the same year, only 5½ miles from our home.

The much better climate restored Anna to good health, and six more children, Jacob (II), Selmer, Ingeborg, Alice, August and Michael were born. Grandparents, uncles and aunts, followed to Alberta. Only the Andrew Olson family, Brynhjolf's sister remained in N.D. The pioneer problems of mosquitoes, lack of fences, straying livestock, barns for milch cows and calves were gradually solved. Sunday School and laymens' meetings were held from the first months. Pastor C. M. Nodtvedt helped organize the Bethany Lutheran Congregation in 1903, barely a year after the settlement was formed.

Brynhjolf was the earliest proponent for a public school district, and proposed the name Norbo given to the school, built in 1906. He also played a prominent part in the establishment of the Meeting Creek Creamery managed by A. Skalleberg, a Norwegian who had trained in Denmark.

Brynhjolf Stolee died in 1955, 89 years old. His wife, Anna died ten years later, well over 95 years old.

Blessed be the memory of the pioneers.

Additional Information supplied by Jacob B. Stolee:

During August of that first summer lumber for the first barn was purchased in Wetaskiwin. Our father, and his brother Haakon made three twelve foot rafts with this lumber. These rafts were tied together and on these they loaded farm machinery and shingles. They set out on Pipestone Creek to Dried Meat Lake and down the Battle River to where Ferry Point store was at that time. Our father often mentioned that they often had to toss off the bundles of cedar shingles in order to make it easier to get across some of the sand bars in the lake.

Our parents had a great concern for the education of their children, as well as for the other children of the community. Therefore the children of our community did not remain illiterate even if there was a delay in getting the public school started. There was ample time for religious or parochial school. The first of these school terms was held in the upstairs of the

Abraham Jerstad home in the winter of 1904 with Mr. P. H. Olufson as the teacher. These parish courses for the children usually lasted a month. There was instruction in Catechism, Bible History and in the Bible itself, but since the instruction was in Norwegian the children learned to read and write in that language.

Our parents' interest in higher education is shown by the part they played in the founding of Camrose Lutheran College, as well as of the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute. Our father was a delegate to the first meeting of the Camrose Lutheran College Association and a long time member of the board. All his sons and daughters have attended this school. Our parents were also to play a very important role in helping to organize and support the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute.

Hannah Marie Tveit (nee Stolee)

Born in North Dakota September 15, 1900. Moved with parents to Alberta in 1902. Attended school at Norbo, Bawlf, Bible Course at Camrose Lutheran College and Missionary Training School in Minneapolis. Married June 23, 1929 to Rev. Amund Tveit who served parishes at: Clarkston, Washington, 1929-1930; Donalds — Edberg parish 1930-1938; Admiral, Sask., 1938-1944; Preeceville, Sask., 1944-1948; Valhalla Centre, Alberta 1948-1952; Claresholm, 1952-1957.

Moved to Camrose in 1957 and travelled as Evangelist in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Later became visiting pastor in his home congregation in Camrose. Pastor Tveit died January 24, 1974. Hannah has since made her home with her sister Alice in Camrose. The Tveits have two daughters: Marie, born in Camrose, 1930. She attended: High School in Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute, Outlook, Sask.; University of Alberta in Edmonton; Bible School at C.L.B.I. in Camrose; Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Fuller Seminary, California.



The pastor Amund Tveit family. Elizabeth, Pastor Tveit and Hannah (Stolee) Tveit and Marie.

Marie taught Public School at: La Glace, Hay Lakes, and Claresholm, Alberta. Was Missionary to Japan 1958-1969. Taught Day School at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Costa Mesa, California 1971-76. Missionary to Japan 1976-.

Elizabeth was born in Camrose 1936. She attended High School at Camrose Lutheran College, Camrose. University, Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota. University in Colorado.

Elizabeth Tveit taught high school in Greenbush, Minnesota 1957-1960. Taught High School for children of U.S. Military in Germany 1960-1961. Taught High school for children of U.S. Military in Japan 1962-1965. She studied at the University of Southern California 1965-1966. Taught High School at Estancia, Costa Mesa, California 1966-1972. Married Richard Smith 1967 who died in a car accident two months later.

In 1969 Elizabeth was presented the "Teacher of the year" award by the National Association of Parents and Teachers and was honored by Congress with Life Membership.

Elizabeth Tveit Smith, Licensed Psychometrist, Marriage, Family and Child Counselor, Costa Mesa, Cal., 1972.

Jacob Stolee

Jacob Stolee is the fifth in age, of Brynhjolf and Anna Stolee's children. He was the first one in the family born in Alberta. He continued on the home farm for several years after his school days in Norbo. He completed his studies for the parish ministry at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. He served parishes at Macoun, Saskatchewan; Viking, Alberta; Birch Hills, Saskatchewan; Torquay, Saskatchewan and Starbuck, Manitoba. For twelve years he served as president of the Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute, Outlook, Saskatchewan. Since his retirement in 1972 to Camrose, he has supplied preaching in vacant parishes, and since 1974 has served part time as Director of Church Relations at Camrose Lutheran College.

In 1934 he married Christine Bergquist. They have one daughter married to the Rev. Don Johnson, Lutheran chaplain at the University of B. C. The Johnsons have four children: Susan, Peter, Joy and Christopher; the Stolees' also have a son, Bryan, who is a teacher. He and his wife Hazel live at Sardis, B.C. and have two children: Gina and Michael.

John Selmer Stolee

Selmer was born in the spring of 1905. He took his early education in Norbo School, which was situated one mile north of the Stolee home. As there

were no High Schools in the area, he took part in the farming operations for a number of years.

On the morning of July 25, 1918 there was a severe frost that killed the grain crops. Then Selmer had the opportunity to learn to drive the mower, as the crops were mowed down for hay.

Horses were the usual source of power for field work in the early days. Four-horse teams were most common. But six, eight, or ten horse teams were becoming common before the tractor took over.

Much of the farm income came from livestock. Some years the dry summers created feed shortage. In the winter of 1919-20 many of the farmers lost cattle because of the long winter and too little feed. The winter started in early October and lasted into May. By spring even old wheat straw was hard to find. On the Randolph Rasmussen place, there was an old straw pile that had been blown into the coulee and could not be hauled out. This was bought from Tom Loney. The Stolee boys brought most of the cattle down there. There was a pond in the coulee with plenty of water, but the ice had to be cut open each morning. Oats chop was fed to supplement the

straw, so those cattle got along well. The boys took turns staying on the place and caring for the cattle. They also learned some household skills, as they had to make their own meals.

Some of the cattle were left at home and they were in need of feed. Selmer was to haul some straw home for them. He was to load it at the Lars Hagen place, east of the Spruce Coulee Cemetery. There was a heavy frozen crust on the straw so it took him several hours to load. He was not far on the way home when it became dark. After a while he realized he was not on the right track. Soon the load of straw tipped in the deep snow. He could see a light and headed for it, taking the horses with him. He hurried, because he feared that the light might be extinguished before he reached the place. It was the Malbouf home. There he got something to eat and the privilege of sleeping on the floor, by the front room heater. He was very thankful for the kindness shown by these neighbors. Elmer and Raymond helped him get the load of straw on the road the next morning.

The spring of 1923 was very dry. There was quite a bit of plowing done in April. One day while the boys were hitching up the horses after dinner, they learned that the hay load by the barn was on fire. Sparks from a bush fire had been carried there by the wind. By the time they got home, the fire was burning through the barn wall and roof. The saddle horse left in the barn was led to safety. But the hay, rack, wagon, barn and all that was in it went up in flames. The telephone brought neighbors to help. If it had not been for the prompt action of Ted. Hagen, the granary with the seed grain and much more would have been lost. Because the barn had been moved, the insurance could not be collected.

In 1928 Selmer graduated from High School. In the fall of 1929, he started with his university work at Outlook, Saskatchewan. He attended the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis 1936-37, and in the fall of 1937, he enrolled at Luther Theological Seminary, where he graduated in 1940. On June 30th of that year, he was ordained into the ministry of the Lutheran Church.

On July 3, 1940 he was married to Dorothy Johnson of Donald. After serving 7½ years at Fairy Glen, Saskatchewan, 10 years at Bawlf, Alberta, 7½ years at New Westminster, B.C., and 8 years at Provost, Alberta, he has retired from parish work.

Selmer and Dorothy have nine children. Carolyn lives in Westlock and teaches elementary in the school in Clyde. Ruth is married to Jim Bridge, who teaches at the Hardisty Junior High in Edmonton. They live in Sherwood Park, and have two sons, Michael and Gary.



Selmer and Dorothy Stolee on their wedding day.



The Selmer Stolee family. Back row — Phyllis, Daniel, Carolyn, Paul, Elizabeth, Joe and Elaine. Front row — Ruth, Selmer, Dorothy, Eunice.

Elaine is married to Bernie Keller. They live in Westlock, where Bernie teaches in the High School and Elaine teaches part-time in the Elementary. They have two boys, Mark and Eric.

Daniel and his wife Merdell (nee Nesvold) live in Camrose. Dan works at Koppers, Ltd., and Merdell teaches in the High School in Rosalind. They have two girls, Kirsten and Karin.

Elizabeth is married to Rod Rhyason. They live in Hanna, where Rod teaches Junior High. They have one son, Jeffery.

Eunice is married to Dr. Brian Gordon and lives at Paradise Valley, where Brian is farming. They have two sons, Timothy and Jonathan.

Phyllis is married to Roger Holmes and lives in Medicine Hat, where Roger is in the printing business. They have one son, Aaron.

Joseph is married to Barbara (nee Leiren). They live in Mill Woods, Edmonton. Joe works for Ford Credit and Barb is a nurse at the University Hospital.

Paul lives in Downsview, a suburb of Toronto, and is working for Federal Mogul Ltd.

In 1973 Selmer and Dorothy bought the NE ¼ of section 4 and have made this their home since retirement. This is the land where Dorothy's parents, Henry and Mina Johnson, homesteaded, and where Dorothy was born.

Mike Stolee Story

Michael (Mike) the youngest of the B. J. Stolee family, has continually lived on the homestead with the exception of three years spent in school in Camrose.

When he was old enough to rake hay he was given a calf. Mike remembers his first heifer laying



Mike and Doris Stolee and son David 1944.

on her calf in the barn and how badly he felt. Mike was initiated into field work by walking behind harrows and driving four horses.

The first tractor used on the farm was jointly owned with Henry Johnson. It was used for breaking and plowing. The next two tractors were jointly owned with Clifford Johnson, and the horses were used less and less.

In 1938 he married Doris, daughter of Henry and Mina Johnson. Both Mike and Doris attended public school in Norbo and are members of the Bethany Lutheran Church.



David and Gail Stolee with sons John and Andrew.

They enjoy farming and horticulture. In 1973 they were awarded first prize given by the Camrose Chamber of Commerce in the farmyard beautification contest.

They have one son David. He took his schooling in Norbo and Meeting Creek, Camrose Lutheran College, Moorhead, Minnesota, and the University of British Columbia, getting his Masters Degree in Social Work in 1963. He has worked for the Department of Social Services and Community Health in Red Deer, Calgary, Edmonton and is presently the Deputy Minister of Social Services.

David and his wife Gail (nee Jones), of Westlock were married in 1969. They live on a small farm near Elk Island Park and have two sons Jon and Andrew. Gail is a qualified teacher librarian. They are interested in horses; having raised Thoroughbred horses for several years.

Thomas Shea Family History

as told by daughter Catherine Kneeland

The Thomas Shea family moved to the Norbo District in 1930 from Camrose, Alberta. Their family consisted of Thomas — age 62, his wife Celina 43, Bill 19, Rita 17, Anna 15, Mary 10, Catherine 8, Pat 5, and Doris (new born).

Thomas was born at Stirling, Ontario in March of 1869. He came west to Manitoba when he was 21 years old. A year later to Edmonton where he was associated with Mr. Haworth in the building trade. He once owned the land on Jasper Avenue where the MacDonald Hotel is now situated.

Adventurous and active he was one of the



Thomas and Celina Shea — wedding picture.

thousands who went to the Yukon during the time of the gold rush. He was also engaged in freighting to Northern posts for a time and later took a homestead near Wetaskiwin.

It was at Old Duhamel he built a creamery and hotel and it was here where he met and married Celina Sharkey — who had arrived with her parents, several sisters, and brothers in 1902. Her Father's name was Thomas Sharkey, her Mother's, Sophia; brothers Wilfred, Hebert, Henry, Homer, Art, and Jeff; sisters Elmira, Angeline, and her eldest sister Rose stayed behind in Wisconsin.

Mr. Shea managed the hotel for a time and later bought George P. Smith's General Store. This little center for many years was the main fording place on the Battle River.

Shortly after Camrose was established Mr. Shea moved there with his family and was a familiar figure where he was active in the contracting business until 1930 when he moved to a farm located north of Donalds of S.E. ¼, Sec. 14,43,18.

Mr. and Mrs. Shea had eleven children, some of the older members, Cecilia, Tommy (Obie), and Lawrence were out on their own now and they lost one son (Henry) at the age of four.

Dad and Bill arrived early in August to start repairs on the house. Anna, Mary, Pat, and I came and camped in the granary until September when Mother and Doris (our new baby sister) arrived.

This was quite a move for all of us especially Mom after living in Camrose where she had electricity, running water, etc. There was about 45 acres of land broke, a shallow well from which we pulled water with a bucket on a rope. The water was very hard, impossible to wash clothes in. We packed soft water from a spring nearly half a mile away. We all went together and the size of the pail depended on the size of the person. That hill began to look very steep after the first couple of trips. A few years later we acquired an old horse and a stoneboat, then we hauled a 35 gallon barrel from the spring in Conrad Vikses coulee. With all the splash and splatter we were lucky if we got home with 20 gallons of it.

Dad also dug his own coal in the hills and my younger brother became so frustrated with this balky old horse while hauling coal up the hill one day that he lit a fire under it, now I tell you that old horse didn't waste any more time that day.

We had one milk cow, Dad was a very good gardener so we always had lots of vegetables. This was his pastime as he was not able to do a lot of hard work anymore. He sold vegetables to St. Mary's Hospital.

Mom did all of her own baking and canning and often had fresh buns, cake, cookies or corn meal muffins waiting for us when we arrived home from school. We walked a little more than a mile to school where grades one through nine were being taught at that time. Mary and I, many times built the fire on mornings when our fingers were so cold we could hardly strike a match. We got 12 cents a day for building fires and 2½ cents each for packing water up the hill. Many a time we toasted our bread on that old stove pipe to warm it up a bit.

One thing we really enjoyed was sliding down those hills in winter. We used mostly bob-sleds in those days, homemade of course.



Pat and Catherine.

We attended the Roman Catholic Church in Rosalind when we were able. I remember the year Mary and I were confirmed. We attended lessons for two weeks in Rosalind. We only had one way to get there, walk, so walk we did. One particularly hot day we were about half way when a car came and whizzed right on by. We were quite perturbed I tell you, our thoughts were not very Christian about then. However if he had stopped we would likely have run like rabbits, we were so shy and backward.

A couple of those years we were on relief, and received \$12.00 a month. There was Mom, Dad, and four of us children at home at the time. Even though we had little money or conveniences we had lots of fun. Relatives, neighbors and ourselves took turns having house parties. Those on Mom's side were very musical so we did a lot of dancing. We also played cards and checkers, Dad loved checkers or crib and one had to be pretty sharp to beat him. Dad passed away at the age of 69 in February of 1937.

Mom and Doris left the farm in 1940, lived in Camrose and Edmonton for a short time then moved to Wetaskiwin where Mom cooked at the Driard



Celina Shea and three of her daughters; Doris, Mary and Rita.

Hotel for a number of years. At present Mom is living at Peace Hills Lodge in Wetaskiwin and enjoying life, visiting with friends, attending programs that come in, even crocheting cushion covers and afghans at the ripe old age of 92.

My first job away from home was on Alfred Vikse's farm, I was 14 years of age. I worked both inside and out, house cleaned, baked, made meals, helped milk, hauled straw with team and hayrack, ground feed, etc. Wages were \$7.00 a month, but I was always treated like one of the family. I worked at house keeping jobs after that at Rocky, Lethbridge, Daysland, and Rosalind until I was 19 years old at which time I married Ervin Kneeland.

Tom (Obie) Shea

Cecilia, eldest daughter's story will appear elsewhere in the book, she is now Mrs. Ralph Tate.

I, Tom (Obie) the eldest son left home at an early age and went to the United States where I joined the Army in 1927. In addition to service in the United States I also served in the Panama Canal Zone, the Philippines and Europe, attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1946 and retired from the forces in 1952.

From 1957 to 1972 I served as a consultant to a chain of Catholic owned hospitals with sixteen hospitals in the United States, Ireland, and Guatemala. In 1972 at the age of sixty five I retired.

I married a Texas girl in 1938 and fathered two daughters who have presented us with six grandchildren. At present time my wife, Kathleen and I are living in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Lawrence Shea

Lawrence spent a lot of time helping his uncle Frank Fountaine who lived north of the Battle river.

At the time the war broke out Lawrence was working on a sugar beet farm in southern Alberta and was one of the first in our family to join the armed forces.

While serving overseas he married Ethel Herron and brought her to Canada. When the war ended they settled in Ponoka.

Lawrence was a carpenter by trade and worked as maintenance man at Ponoka Institute until he passed away while curling in March 1966.

Lawrence and Ethel had two sons, Graham and Shaune who are now married and each have two children of their own.

Graham and family live in Sherwood Park. Shaune and family live at Whitehorse, Yukon.

Bill Shea

Bill came out to the farm to help his Dad get the place in shape and then he worked for some of the neighbors for a few years.

Our close neighbors on the west were Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Thoen. Mrs. Thoen's sister Myrtle came to visit them and this is where Bill met her and they were married. They moved to Edmonton and spent most of their lives there.

They had one daughter, Maureen who now resides in Calgary. She is now married to Bob McNaughton and they have a family of little girls. Bill and Myrtle have both passed away.

Rita Shea (Gibbons)

Rita was a happy go lucky girl, she worked at different jobs around Camrose and at the age of about 20 years got a job at Innisfree. Here she met and married Dolphie Gibbons, a barber by trade. I remember after they were married they came home in this little open car with "just married" written all over it. A "Bug" it was called. We at home got a big kick out of that funny little car.

Rita enjoyed curling and won a few trophies. She also liked betting on the horses and speculated in real estate.

Dolphie served in the Armed forces during World War II. Rita and Dolphie had one son, Lawrence who also was in the Air Force, later on.

Rita and Dolphie passed away within six months of each other in 1958.

Anna Shea Family

Anna came out to Norbo district with Dad and brother Bill, and three of us younger children whom

she looked after and cooked for until Mother and Doris arrived. Anna was home for a few years then went to work at Innisfree.

There she met and married Buster LaRose, they moved to Wetaskiwin shortly after they were married. Buster served in the armed forces overseas. After his return he worked for Murner Motors until the place burned down just a few years ago.

Anna and Buster have four children; Jerry, Terry, Bob, and Lynda.

The two older boys are married, so have presented them with four grandchildren.

Bob works up north and Lynda lives at home and is working for A.G.T. in Wetaskiwin.

Mary Shea

Mary lived at home on the farm until she was about sixteen years old. She worked for different ones in the Camrose area, Hills and Kehoes are some I remember.

She was in the armed forces for a few years, met and married an Air Force man Al Hogue. They spent some time in Eastern Canada and then lived in Wetaskiwin. They had two sons, Pat and Kit.

The eldest son Pat has worked in Spain for the last few years, so Mary had the privilege of travelling there to see him last summer, accompanied by her 10 year old grandson of Edmonton.

Kit, his wife Avis and their two children live at High River. Kit works in the bank.

At present Mary lives in Wetaskiwin and works at Walders Drug.

Patrick Micheal Shea

Youngest son of Thomas and Celina Shea - born in Camrose February 14th, 1925.

He lived in Camrose until moving to the Norbo District in 1930.

Patrick joined the Armed Services in June 1942, at the age of sixteen, and took Basic Training in Camrose, from there transferred to Camp Borden, Ontario. He was held back from an overseas assignment until he became of age, then was posted to England in June 1943. The second day there he met brother Lawrence who had been serving in the front lines in Europe and was in England for a short break.

He served in Belgium, Holland, and Germany's Black Forest.

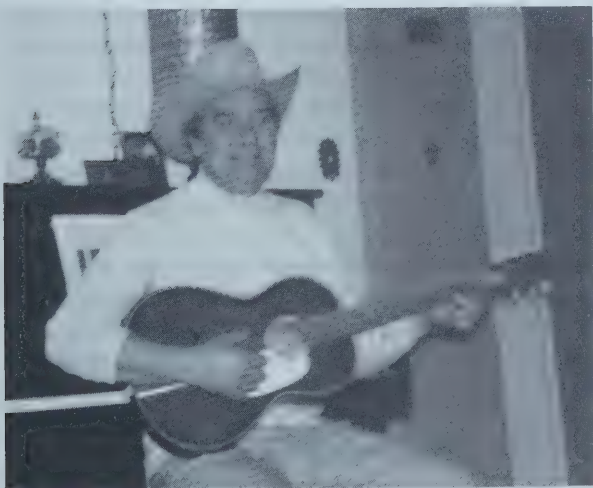
Pat was wounded in the front lines in Belgium and was in Ghent when armistice was declared.

Doris Shea (O'Connor)

Youngest child of Thomas and Celina Shea Born Sept.

19th, 1930 at St. Mary's Hospital, Camrose.

This fact in itself makes me privileged alone,
 The other ten members were all born at home.
 When we moved to this district our family was split,
 Older members working at what jobs they could git.
 The rest of us lived in a small shingled house,
 Which also was home for a stray field mouse.
 First lesson taught me by close brother Pat,
 Was how I could tell our pet cat from a rat.
 He took me along for walks in the wild,
 Reminding me often I was just a mere child.
 Learning to enjoy the wonders of outdoors,
 Shown early in life how to help with the chores.
 Brothers Lawrence and Bill were tending their tasks,
 Making moonshine in mineshafts and filling their flasks.
 Mother would scold them as all mothers do,
 She told them this hobby was strictly taboo.
 They tried to placate her with gifts they would give'er.
 The next day their "Still" blew them both in the river.
 The first pennies earned I'll never forget,
 Were made rolling sister Mary's first cigarette.
 The shame and the punishment for committing this crime,
 Kept me from sitting for quite a long time.
 Sister Catherine we relied on to be sympathetic,
 While Cecilia advised us and looked most angelic.
 Sisters Rita and Anna we all did agree,
 Married fine gentlemen from old Innisfree.
 They were Dolfie and Buster and when they came courting,
 Drove a rumble seat Bug which looked very sporting.



Husband Maurice enjoying his favorite hobby 1978.

Oldest brother Tommy who altered his name,
 Headed south to the "States" seeking fortune and fame.

When the headlines of war brought changes to all,
 Many in our family answered the call.

Alone now, Mother and I moved to Camrose,
 Bringing family life at Norbo to a close.

In December '57 I married Maurice O'Connor,
 A grand Heisler fellow whose name I did honor.

No stranger to Donalda, he was the last C.N. agent there,

He now dispatches trains through Edmonton with a flair.

We were blessed with two daughters and then with two sons,

A combination we felt made us indeed lucky ones.

Their names I have listed in order of Birth,

This account was written with love and with mirth.

Catherine Joan — February 1959

Kelly-Ann — October 1962

Kirby Michael — August 1964

Craig Stuart Thomas — May 1969



Grandma Shea, Doris O'Connor and the O'Connor children, Craig, Cathy, Kirby and Kelly.

School Days

When asked to contribute to this labour of Love,
 With memories fading, we'll need help from above.

But who could forget those mountains of snow,
 With temperatures hovering near thirty below.

Walking with neighbors so none would get lost,
 We reach our wee Norbo schoolhouse, covered in frost.

Thawing out 'round the heater, quick as we could,
 Each taking a turn collecting more wood.

With a warm fire glowing, now banked with coals,
 We pursued our studies in search of our goals.
 The weather played havoc, regardless of season,
 Hailstones pelting us without rhyme or reason.
 Great swirling clouds of biting black dust,
 Blotted out the sun, turning day into dusk.
 Clasp hands tightly we headed for home,
 Dodging bulls by the roadside, when they chose to roam.

Our chores were awaiting us and had to be done,
 A race between us and the fast setting sun.

Mother would call us for a late evening meal,
 Followed by prayers, when we all had to kneel.

This ritual was interrupted sometimes with the giggles,
 One praying backwards, another with the wiggles.
 Since a lone coal oil lamp was our best source of light,
 We settled down early, on a dark winters night.

Close Neighbors

An early moment in life that I can recall,
 Was being bundled in a cutter with a creature quite small.

A round furry pup with frost on his nose,
 Us with hot irons to help warm our toes.

A delectable morsel in each sticky hand,
 Baked lovingly that day by Mrs. Kneeland.

Our favourite shortcut through the raspberry patch,
 Brought us closer to Blouins for a 500 game match.

Neighbors in the coulee we soon got to know,
 A kindly old couple and their talking crow.

A bit further west past the ripening wheat,
 Vikse's cinnamon rolls were a most welcome treat.

Another mile West to Hagens front gate,
 For the mail to arrive we would anxiously wait.

Delivered by Tom Solomonson and his horse and buggy,

Then later by car if the roads weren't too muddy.

Returning home slowly through the late Autumn haze,

We refer to those times as the Great Good Old Days.

The Ralph Tate Family

Ralph and I, Cecilia, eldest daughter of the Tom Shea's, met through my brother Bill and were married in 1932 at Wanda R.C. Church, Heisler.

Prior to this I had attended high school in Camrose, after leaving school I worked in real estate with my Uncle George Shea for approximately six



Ralph Tate family — Cecilia, Ralph, Dennis, Bill.

years. I was helping out a girl in Heisler at the time I met Ralph, he and my brother Bill were working in that district at the time on a threshing crew.

Ralph's mother and stepfather farmed a few miles north of the river and the first place Ralph and I lived was a log cabin situated on their place just above the river bank.

In those days the neighbours got together for house parties, cards and dancing, we had some wonderful times. Most popular gathering place was Aunt Illa and Uncle George Shaurettes. Other neighbors, Fontaine boys were all musical, played fiddles and step danced so there was plenty of music and fun.

Ralph hunted fur bearing animals to make a living those first years.

Our eldest, Dennis was born on August 15, 1933. He was born at my Mother's house, Dr. Jackson and my Aunt Illa were in attendance.

Our second son, Bill was born in Camrose, St. Mary's Hospital on May 7th, 1935. Bill was baptized by the resident Priest before going home.

Dennis was baptized by Msgr. Lyonns at the Ovide Blouin home.

After leaving the cabin at the river we moved to different mines where Ralph was employed as miner and car push, Meeks, Hansons and Wislas.

We also lived at Shaurettes and the old Jordy place north of the river for a short time.

Later Ralph's folks built a grocery store on the south side of the river near the mines. We had a bunk house near them. At this time we purchased a Chev. ton truck, we hauled cream for the farmers in the

district to Camrose and brought back groceries for them and the store. Later purchased a larger truck so we could haul coal.

Dennis started his schooling at Coal Valley School at the age of seven, this school was about three and one half miles north of the river. He walked to school.

After that we moved to Mother's place in the Norbo district. We used coal oil lamps, wood and coal stoves, ironed with the old flat irons. Baked all our own bread and canned many quarts (around 600) of wild berries, saskatoons, raspberries, gooseberries, pincherries, chokecherries, black currants, cranberries, etc. so we always had a good variety.

We also had very good gardens here as it was the best of garden soil.

A nephew, Larry Gibbons who visited us one fall and saw my shelves of pickles said "Pickles, pickles, and more pickles, that's all I see around here."

The men always went big game hunting in the fall so we had deer, moose, elk and bear, we didn't relish the bear meat too much.

We pulled water (which was hard as nails) in a pail on a rope from the well. We had outhouses in those days, no running water.

Meat was frozen and buried in oat bin to keep.

We melted snow in winter for washing, carried it from the creek in summer or sometimes took the clothes down to the creek to wash them.

One thing we had at this house I must mention, I don't think any one else had, can you believe, an outside stairway. Was not much fun running up and down there to bed on frosty winter days. Sometimes the children decided they would rather get pushed up through a vent hole in the kitchen ceiling. Very inconvenient but warmer.

Eggs were preserved in water glass in a large stone crock, butter was also stored this way in a salt brine. Sauerkraut was made in large wooden kegs and put out to freeze.

We attended Rosalind R.C. Church at this time. Boys attended Norbo school and teachers they remember are Alice Stolee, Barbara Leard and Marie Wilfert.

About 1944 moved to Colonel Clifford place, while there the boys attended Ibsen school, teachers were W. French and Eleanor Cook.

At this time we were trucking for a living.

Following this we lived on the Fischbach place (then owned by Erickson of Edberg).

From there we came to Donalda and rented the old Murphy house which was right next to the one we now own. The boys spent a week in a tent taking instruction at Bashaw for first communion and confir-

mation. It was very muddy the Sunday we had to take their clothes over, no gravel then, but we managed to get there in time. Father Deitrich was the priest at the time.

We continued trucking, hauling grain, coal and took over the Donalda Transport for about ten years until Ralph had to quit for health reasons. While still



Train — truck collision and concerned onlookers.

freighting, Ralph met with an accident. The north bound train hit his truck and there were groceries, chicken crates and what have you strung all over the place. Luckily Ralph was not badly hurt.

I worked for Kelly Huff, Don Lawson, did freight books for McLellans and Hjorths and worked at Revelstoke lumber yard then managed by Tom Goddard.

Ralph later drove school bus for County of Stettler for about thirteen years until he retired.

I would like to tell a hair-raising experience I had about nineteen years ago. While meandering across the spill way at Forestburg dam I slipped and fell into the hole below. My first thought was dear Lord, I'll be boiled alive as I thought the water going in there would be hot. However it wasn't. I just held my nose so my lungs wouldn't fill with water and hoped for the best. Finally I was thrown out into the stream where Ralph caught me. From this misfortune I received head injuries which still bother me at times.

Our boys are both married now and live in Edmonton. Dennis to Jeanette Plouffe of Vegreville in 1960, they have three children, Wendy 1961, Todd 1964, Linda 1964. Dennis at present time is manager of Northgate TireTown. He was general manager at the westend branch for about eight years. Prior to that he was with Good Year Tire for twelve years.

Bill married Jean Larson of Langruth Manitoba 1961. They have two children, Dianna was born in 1965 and Larry in 1970. These last years Bill has



Forestburg spillway where Cecilia fell in.

hailed freight for Kingsway across Canada and at present time has his own Kenworth diesel tractor trailer and is hauling oil well equipment to all points in Alberta. Bill is also good at heavy mechanics so does most of his own repairing.

Jacob Vikse

Jacob Vikse was born on one of the Vikse farms, seven kilometers north of Haugesund, Norway, on May 11, 1850.

Love for the sea ran deep within this young man and his early years found him employed as a herring fisherman.

The call to military service came when he was twenty-one years old. At the age of twenty-four, he



Back row: Torkel, Rosenberg, August, Mike and Conrad. Front row: Alfred, Jacob Vikse, Aasa Vikse and Annie.

joined up for long sea voyages, and was a sailor for sixteen years. The first eight years were spent on a sailship and the second eight years were aboard a steamship.

On April 1, 1885 he married Aasa Stolee. In the spring of 1886, the couple together with Aasa's brothers, Michael, Haaken and Rosenberg immigrated to North America. They came via the Cunard Steamship Line, landed in Boston, travelling on to Hillsboro, North Dakota.

Aasa and Jacob's first son, born in 1886, died in infancy. Hardly a happy introduction to a new land. In the fall of 1888, Jacob went by train to Pollock, South Dakota, to file on a homestead in Spring Creek, Campbell County of that state.

The Christmas of 1888, the couple experienced their first American style Christmas. One event that stood out in their memories was the "Christmas Tree Program," as Christmas trees were unheard of in Norway at that time. The tree was trimmed with popcorn streamers, and homemade candles. A man stood by with a bucket of water. The older folk looked with a measure of disapproval at the American way of keeping Christmas, especially when St. Nicholas arrived.

In the spring of 1889, a caravan of eight people, six cows, some calves and a crate of chickens left for the new homesteads.

Jacob's team was the lead team. His strong, large, rangy Holstein oxen, used to hard work, came from the lumber camps of Minnesota. Food for the journey consisted of salt pork, dried beef and a huge stack of Flatbrød. Supper each night was milk mush, to use up the fresh supply of milk.

The journey of 250 miles took three weeks, with an average of twelve miles each day. Aasa came by train later in June, as Torkel was a year and a half old, and Rosenberg was born in July, shortly after their arrival.

Jacob's farm was high and quite level, the search for water proved fruitless, all the years they were there they hauled water by stoneboat. No water was ever wasted in Aasa's home, even when they lived in water-rich Alberta.

In 1892 depression settled over the land and the search for "Greener pastures" began once again.

In 1902 Jacob Vikse came to Alberta to arrange for the building of a cabin for his family, due to arrive the following summer.

This sod-roofed, log cabin, built on the wrong land since there were no markers, burned down before his return. Neighbors built a new house for the family before their arrival.

As was usual with sod-roofed houses, the water



Jacob Vikse and Sons and Pastor Stolee: L-R August, Conrad, Jacob, Michael, Alfred, Pastor Stolee, and Rosenberg.

poured in when it rained and dripped in for some time after the rain stopped. The “muddy soup” often had to be shoveled out once the rain was over. All edibles would be piled on the table and covered with the table oilcloth, the bedding would be piled and covered with a canvas, in an attempt to keep things somewhat dry. Often the children would seek refuge under the table.

The Vikses arrived in the spring of 1903 with their six sons, Torkel, Rosenberg, August, Michael, Conrad and Alfred.

For the trip to Alberta, Jacob arranged for an immigrant car, actually a boxcar, supplied by the railroad. The men travelled with their machinery, the furniture, the animals and the feed for the animals.

The women and children travelled in relative luxury in the passenger cars. After Jacob and Aasa’s arrival in Alberta, their only daughter, Annie was added to the family.

At the age of 86, Jacob wrote his memoir, called, “With Pumps Kept Bright.” In this book he recalls how they cut logs for the rough construction of a new house (built in 1907 and still lived in by his grandson, Harvey Vikse), and travelled by team to Wetaskiwin to pick up, “shingles, and siding, and the better lumber for the top floor.”

The Lutheran Church was always a foremost interest in Jacob’s life. He played an important part in establishing and building Bethany Lutheran congregation, just north of Donalda.

He was also one of the men who helped organize and build Camrose Lutheran College, serving on the board for several years.

Jacob and Aasa left a rich Christian heritage, not only for their children, but for succeeding generations.

In later years, Jacob and Aasa retired to Donalda, where they lived for some time. Aasa was in ill-health until her death in 1935.

Jacob continued to live in Donalda until his passing in 1942.

Torkel J. Vikse, Rev.

Torkel Vikse was fifteen years old when his parents, Jacob and Aasa Vikse immigrated from South Dakota to Alberta.

Torkel graduated from Camrose Lutheran College, and in 1913 returned to America to attend St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, in preparation for the Lutheran ministry. His studies were interrupted by the First World War. In 1918-1919 he served in the Canadian Army.

In 1921 he married Ella Hellickson, the couple had four children, Ruth, Arthur, Arnold and Marilyn.

Torkel was ordained into the Lutheran ministry in 1922 and served congregations in Saskatchewan, the Dakotas and Minnesota.

Torkel and Ella returned to Canada in 1934 and for a period of two years farmed together with Alfred on the family farm. Both families lived in the large house built by Jacob.

Torkel and Ella returned to Minnesota where they ran the Bethany Rest Home. Torkel passed away in 1961. Ella continues to live in Northfield, Minnesota.

Rosenberg Vikse

Rosenberg Vikse, a bachelor, lived with his parents until their death. After several yeas of living alone he moved in with Alfred and Gladys Vikse, where he continued to live until his death in the fall of 1956.

The following story is a Vikse favorite.

Rosenberg, an exceptional horseman, completed a course in horsemanship from the “Barry School of Horsemanship.”

The day his diploma arrived he was out picking rocks with a stoneboat pulled by a team of mules. Something spooked the mules, with a violent jerk of the harness they dashed and clattered toward home with the laden stoneboat pounding at their heels. As they burst into the yard they had so much momentum from the force of the stoneboat they could not stop.

The barn lay directly before them! The wagon pole thundered into the barn wall, literally forcing the mules up the wall. As the story goes, they nearly had their heads in the hay loft!

Someone is supposed to have remarked, “If

Rosenberg had had his diploma attached to the wall, perhaps the mules would have seen it”.

A common winter sight in the town of Donalda, was Rosenberg hauling coal with a team and wagon to both the Donalda School and the Vikse Brothers General Store.

He is remembered for his willingness to assist in any task or job that needed attention.

August Vikse Family

August was born in Pollock, South Dakota in 1891 and moved west with his parents. They eventually settled on their homestead in Central Alberta N.E. 2-43-18-W4th, in the year 1903.

Here he attended the Norbo School and assisted his family with the farming.

At the age of sixteen he began working at the Ellefson General Store, located three miles west of the Bethany Lutheran Church, on the Old Plain place, walking a distance of seven miles each way every day. He continued working for them until Mr. Ellefson passed away in 1910, after that Mrs. Ellefson moved her house into Donalda. (This house still remains and is now lived in by the Ralph Tate family.) She had the grocery stock transferred into the Lee building. August continued to operate the store, and when Mrs. Ellefson decided to retire she asked August if he would buy the business. With only a very short time to make a decision, August got in touch with his brother Michael, who was attending the Camrose College to see if he would consider a partnership. The decision was favorable and this business became known as the Vikse Brothers General Store.

Until the coming of the railroad, August hauled supplies from the town of Bawlf, a distance of twenty-eight miles, by team.

August was united in marriage to Betsy Jerstad in 1916. The Jerstads were early pioneers also and homesteaded one-half mile south of Bethany Lutheran Church.

August and his bride bought a home and settled in Donalda. The store business thrived until the “hungry thirties”.

The store was a distributing point for Government rations which arrived by box-cars for the hungry settlers. The rations consisted of apples, dried cod, beans and peas.

The brothers are still remembered for their good-heartedness to the nearly destitute families during this period. A bag of candy was always found in the bottom of the grocery box for any family with children.

Due to severe shortage of cash, bartering became

a common means of paying for supplies. Furs were often used for barter.

Because of the hard times, people often resorted to ingenious methods to make their trading items go further, such as stretching the weight of the butter by placing mashed potatoes in the bottom of the crock.

August used to tell the story about a lady who came in to trade her butter for fresh butter as a mouse had fallen in her cream before it was churned. She told August “What people don’t know won’t hurt them”.

August agreed and went to the back of the store, just wrapped up the same butter and gave it to her. The customer went home, satisfied a good trade had been made. He had unusual ability to turn a dark situation into something amusing.

In the year of 1923, August together with Oscar Olsen (big Oscar) and Fred Hilker decided to go west to British Columbia to the Goat River, a tributary of the Fraser, in search of gold. This trip for gold-panning turned out fruitless, but the opposite was true of the adventures and dangers they experienced.

Betsy and August had four children, Aleta, Arnold (who died in infancy), Lester and Gordon.

The partnership was dissolved after forty-three years, and Mike and August sold their business to Allen Steinhoff and Eric Hjorth in 1955. (This became the A. E. Groceteria).

The brothers lived in retirement in Donalda for a number of years. Betsy will be remembered for the active part she took in the Lutheran Church, being pianist for many, many years, president of the Ladies Aid, Sunday School Teacher and a member of the Rebekah Lodge. August was Treasurer of the Sharon Church over the years and also made it his duty to build fires and have the church warm whenever it was to be used.

August and Betsy held an Auction Sale in 1962 and moved to Camrose where they lived for seven years before their move to Kelowna, British Columbia. August passed away in November, 1972. Betsy continues to live in their home in Kelowna, British Columbia.

Aleta (Vikse) Sherriff—Aleta obtained her high school diploma in Donalda, after which she earned her B.A. from the University of Alberta. She then attended University in Seattle where she earned her degree in Library Science.

Aleta worked as Head Librarian at the Edmonton City Public Library for twenty-five years, until her retirement. Her husband Syd passed away in July 1979. She continues to live in Edmonton.

Lester—was born and raised in Donalda, where he obtained his schooling. During his growing up



The Donalda school as it was in the process of burning in 1937.

years he was actively involved in many sports, his favorites being basketball and baseball. Their high school developed a good deal of proficiency and they qualified to play in a tournament during an Edmonton Exhibition.

Lester remembers vividly when the schoolhouse was destroyed by fire in 1937. Classes were held in the Lutheran Church, the school carpenter shop and the house now owned by Milton Heater.

World War II broke out in 1939.

Upon completing high school, Lester attended Technical school in Calgary in preparation for factory work in Eastern Canada. Before this was completed, however, he joined the Airforce and served his country well, earning his Sgts. stripes while overseas.

Upon returning home he rented land from his father and began farming. Lester was married to Ruth Barkley of Warburg, Alberta in December 1948, who was at that time employed at the Donalda Post Office and Telephone Switchboard, assisting the late Mrs. Lena Otteson.

Lester and Ruth moved their home to the farm two miles north of town, bordering the east side of the coulee. They had three children, Diana May, Robin and Gerald.

These were hard working, happy years on the farm, while the family was growing up. Lester belonged to Foresters, Odd Fellows, and the Curling Club. Ruth was Secretary for the Ladies Aid for a number of years. The children took an active part in school sports, Sunday School, Cubs, and 4-H Dairy Club, and took piano lessons from Irene Anderson

and Liz Maunders. Diana May also took accordion lessons, and was pianist for the church at the age of twelve after the departure of her grandmother.

In 1967 Lester rented his land, and began working at MacLeods store in Stettler, making his home there while the children were taking their high school, as at that time senior classes had been curtailed at the Donalda school and since that time the high school children are taken by bus to their classes in Stettler.

In the meantime, Diana May had completed her high school and was working for Alberta Government Telephones. She met and married her husband Merle Schweer of Rosalind, and they carried on the farming. Diana continued to work for A.G.T. and is now an Assistant Supervisor. They now have two sons, Darren born March, 1974 and Jeffry born May, 1978. (A baby daughter was born in February 1976 and died in infancy). The boys make up the fifth consecutive generation to live at Donalda throughout the years in the union of both the pioneering Jerstad and Vikse families; all having an enthusiastic love for the farm community and church. This is deemed an outstanding record.

Robin attended S.A.I.T. after finishing his Senior Matriculation. He later became employed at Strebbs Automotives in Camrose and was united in marriage to Carol Mykyta of Stettler in July, 1976. Robin and Carol have made their home in Camrose, but still remain a part of Donalda as Robin had purchased land next to his dad's old farm.

Gerald was united in marriage to Susan Magee, in October 1975 and they now have a son (Clay) born April, 1978. Gerald has attained his Second Class Operators Papers in Power Engineering, and is attending S.A.I.T. at the present time, taking Engineering Welding.

Both the boys enjoy coming back to play slow pitch, Merle helped to organize the slow pitch ball club in Donalda in 1971, and it has become a very popular community sport. Donalda now has two teams which belong to a league.

Ruth and Lester purchased a Mobile Home and returned several years ago to live among friends on their old farmstead, and Lester continues to work for MacLeods.

Gordon took his schooling at Donalda, later achieved a diploma in Electrical Engineering. He became employed at the Edmonton City Power plant. He met and married Trudy Pearce of Edmonton in October, 1952. Into this union, four boys were born. Darrel, the oldest, born January 24, 1956, Greg September 20, 1957, Rodney May 21, 1960, and Kevin May 28, 1963.

Darrel achieved his Bachelor of Science in Edmonton, and is studying Architecture at the University of British Columbia. Greg has his Bachelor of Education degree; (he is very artistically talented, and has several of his pieces displayed in the art gallery). Rodney is presently taking Construction Engineering at N.A.I.T.; and Kevin is taking his Grade XI.

Darrel was married to Diane Cook on August 18, 1979, and they are presently living in Edmonton.

Gordon, Trudy, and the other three boys are residing at their home in Edmonton. Gordon is Supervisor of Residential Appraisers for the city.

Ole Michael Vikse Story

Michael Vikse was born in Pollock, South Dakota in the year of 1892, where his parents, Jacob and Aasa Vikse had immigrated from Norway. The family moved to the Donalda district in 1903.

As did his brother August, he spent some of his school years staying with the Ellefson family in Meeting Creek going to school and helping in their store. He spent a school term at a College in Northfield, Minnesota and also at Camrose Lutheran College.

In 1911, Mike and August opened the general store in Donalda, just shortly before the railroad started operating through the town. They continued their business for forty-three years. For many years, butter and eggs were often used as a means of trade by farm families, some of the produce good, some not so good. The lean years of the depression were made more bearable for many by Vikse Bros. General Store.

In the year 1916, Mike married Roxie Fraser who had come from Nova Scotia in 1913 to Kitscoty to teach school. After attending Camrose Normal School she taught school in Donalda for two years, 1914 to 1916.

Mike served as a civic leader, contributing his services in various ways. Notable was his position as secretary-treasurer of Donalda for forty-three years, as secretary and active adherent of the United Church for many years. He was a vital part of the growth of the community and surrounding area, a friend and counsellor.

He was the general scribe for people who could not correspond in English, who needed assistance with government departments or other business. He understood and spoke all of the Scandinavian languages and German as well as sign language of the deaf.

Roxie was active in community work also including Church, Sunday School, Choir and school. It fell

her lot to "board the teacher" for more years than enough.

Mike and Roxie had a family of four children; presenting the town with its first set of twins.

Evelyn, born in 1917 married Jack McGibbon and are presently residing in Edmonton. Their only daughter Diane, born in 1948 was united in marriage to David Smith. They have two children, Jennifer (1974) and Heather (1979). Diane and David and family are living at Victoria, British Columbia.

Orville who was born in 1920, married Margaret Cruikshank, and to this union three children were born. First Shirley, born in 1943; now married to Stan Bladon and living in Edmonton. Stan and Shirley have three children, James (1964), Sheri (1967), and Lori (1969). Two sons, Terrance born in 1955, and Ronald born in 1947 are both residing in Calgary. Ronald is married to Helen Knufel.

Orville passed away in 1972 and Margaret continues to live in Calgary, Alberta.

Francis, twin of Florence, was born in 1925. His spouse was Irene Holman. Francis passed away suddenly in 1975, and Irene resides in Victoria, British Columbia.

Florence (1925) was united in marriage to Olaf Hagen of Forestburg. They had a family of three, Maureen (1948) whose spouse is Paul Your of Edmonton; Robert (1950), and Grant (1954). Grant is also now married to Alice Berkenbosch and they are making their home in Edmonton.

After Mike retired from the general store, he opened a business office serving the area for another five years before moving to Edmonton in 1961. Mike passed away in 1965, leaving his wife Roxie, who continues to live in Edmonton.

Conrad and Esther Vikse

Conrad and I were married February 9, 1918 at his parents home; we bought our first quarter of land (the northeast quarter of section ten) the day we were married, from Mr. and Mrs. Christ Sorensen.

We did mixed farming and enjoyed looking after our livestock. We both liked horses and did a lot of riding and driving. The country had a lot of open rangeland, so the cattle could wander; it could take days to find them.

In the early years we did many things to earn some extra money. We, as well as most people, depended on our cream cheques for immediate needs and groceries. I churned butter and sold to Vikse Bros. store, to coal miners, or neighbors. I sold eggs, chickens and turkeys. Conrad did roadwork, threshing, custom work of plowing or brushing, sold fence posts for three cents each, butchered cattle and



Conrad and Esther Vikse on their wedding day, February, 1918.

sold to the coal miners. I remember boarding the teacher. The teachers didn't get paid very much, so when Sam Steele stayed with us he was trying to teach and farm; so we didn't press him for board money. When he left, he gave us a cow worth \$10.00.

In 1927 we bought a quarter section of school land for \$10.00 an acre and we pastured horses for 50¢ per month. Later we bought one more quarter from Torkel Vikse. In 1929 a hired man got \$25.00 per month. A stooker got paid \$3.00 per day.

Tom Kerr (who married Agnes Stolee later) taught school and boarded at our place, and also farmed on the side. We bought a roll top desk from him for \$29.00 that he had bought from Mr. Brown who ran the Ferry Point store. I still have this desk.

Magazine subscription and dish salesmen used to come around.

They would take chickens in trade, so if you didn't have cash you could still make a deal.

It was a wonderful day when we got a bigger house. In 1934 we bought a house in Donalda for \$275.00. It was built by Bert Russell for Mrs. Christ Sorensen. Erling Saltveit went to town March 25th. Conrad took the tractor in the 26th. His brothers Alfred and Rosenberg helped him and Erling put skids under it. Russel Bailey with his tractor helped pull it. They went east by Baileys because there was still snow in the hard pan and on section one while the main road was bare. They got half way on the 27th and the rest of the way by Saturday night the 28th. We furnished the gas and paid Russel \$10.00. When

we got the hole dug for the cellar, the neighbors came to help move the house and pour the cement for a foundation, Len Kneeland, Alex Stout, Uncle Lew Day and Albin Hoffman came in the forenoon. Knute Collin came shortly after dinner. At coffee time Alfred Vikse, Rosenberg Vikse, Hans Halseide and Erling Saltveit came and got the house moved just as it was getting dark. Selmer and Mike Stolee came one day at coffee time, one day August Stolee came after dinner and Selmer came one whole day to help put it on cement. We were very thankful to have more room. With lumber used to repair, paint and cement it cost \$358.00.

When the children were small and we had a doctor in Donalda. I went around with the doctor when he needed assistance at births or other sickness. Most times I did not get paid. I remember once when Conrad wanted to buy two pigs from Collin; he took Conrad out to the barn and told him to pick out the two he wanted. Then he said "I'm giving you those two pigs for Esther helping us".

Injuries didn't always get doctors' attention. One home remedy for cuts that should have been stitched was to mix sugar and turpentine. This took away the pain and healed with no scars. Conrad was chopping brush and gashed his foot very badly. He bandaged his foot up with this treatment and it healed very well.



The Jacob Vikse family before coming to Canada. Jacob, Torkel, Mike, Aase, Conrad, August, Rosenberg.

We did a lot of hair cutting for friends and neighbors. Nobody had 25¢ to spare to go to the barber. A lot of socializing was done with clippers and scissors. Sometimes when we came in from finishing chores, on a Sunday morning, there would be somebody waiting for a haircut. This didn't help to get ready for church, when we had four miles to go with horses.

Conrad was a good horseman and liked lively horses. Being the days before power machinery, we had horses to work and horses to rest. We had 19 at one time. In reading all my old records we were doing discing, plowing and backsetting. Our farming was quite different from today's methods.

We bought our first Ford car in 1927. It was a luxury to have a car that made life easier. Then during the depression years it went up on blocks in the garage and stayed there for quite awhile. A car was a luxury, but by no means as exciting as handling good horses. As the children grew up they all had a share in doing what was needed for the cattle and riding. We bought three more quarters of pasture land so we expanded our cattle numbers and kept a saddle horse or two.

At first cattle were shipped from Bawlf or Rosalind and had to be driven there by horseback riders. One time Donald and Oscar Jacobson were taking cattle to Rosalind and when they came to Len Kneelands, they stampeded when they saw and smelled his sheep. Donald said they could have taken them in the south side of town, but they purposely took them right down main street. There were 50 - 60 head the odd one would get away and go through peoples yards and under a clothes line. Oscar Jacobson lost his hat under a clothes line. When the cattle had been penned up for fattening and then let out to market they would go wild. Another time Donald was with Casper Haugstad and one steer didn't make it with the rest. Mr. Hendel (the cattle buyer) came out with his truck and took the steer into Rosalind. They would get \$5.00 for taking the cattle in for Mr. Hendel.

We have a spring that never dries up. We used it; also the Norbo School children carried water for the school from it. Sometimes there wasn't much water left in the pail by the time they got to the top of the steep hill. During the dry years when the wells dried up and there was no water in the sloughs for cattle, we would see clouds of dust above the trees where the cattle would be coming for miles to drink at our spring. We watched many bull fights that were a daily occurrence.

Our entertainment was what we made for ourselves — picnics, oyster suppers, choir practice,



Donald Vikse family. Standing — Marilyn, Donald, Sharon, Garfield. Seated — Dale, Evelyn, holding Karla, Curtis.

skating parties and lots of visiting. It was particularly nice in the fall when the fields were cleared, big straw stacks were standing, the gardens were in and we had moved the cream separator into the house. I remember how nice it was to go visiting in the crisp fall evenings.

When Oliver Thoens got their first radio, he and Bill Shea strung wire along the fenceline over to our place so we could share it with them. Later we got our own. A lot of our activity was centered around the church in a country community. I remember all day meetings on Sundays or three meetings if you had a visiting pastor, or sometimes we would go to Camrose or Armena or Bawlf. We had an active Ladies Aid with Auction Sales and a popular 1st of July picnic. Alfred Anderson and Knute Collin were good auctioneers. Changes have been made in our church building that make it much easier to clean. We would have cleaning bees and I remember there were times when Lena Hagen thought it needed an extra cleaning so she would go there by herself with her pail and mop.

I enjoyed quilting and one time Mrs. Hagen said to me "You and I are good stitchers — would you help me with this Ladies Aid quilt". So I put the baby on a hand sleigh and walked over there before it was light and we finished it in one day.

I treasure the memories of hearing the music of sleighbells. If the menfolk were hauling grain, it would take most of the day and it would be dark before they returned and you could hear the bells coming. We had Christmas music all winter.

Sometimes the horses would get pretty chilly tied up outside during church — even if they were covered. They would really fly with a light cutter going

home. Sometimes we'd tip if we hit a snowdrift. It didn't take long to get the cutter set up, blankets and kids back in and away we'd go.

We retired in 1969, sold the land to Ed Kvemshagen, our son-in-law and bought a house in Camrose. Conrad passed away in January 1974. In 1978 I sold my house, bought a mobile home and am now living on the farm of Kvemshagen, my old home place.

We have five children; Donald married Evelyn Johnson. He is a farmer and municipal councilor. They have six children. Marilyn — married Frank Stakaruk, who has an auto body shop. They have three children and live at Ardrossen. Sharon — married Albert McGovern, a heavy machine operator. They have two children and live at Alix. Dale — married Afton Olson, mechanic and farmer. They have two children and live near Camrose. Garfield — married Marianne Plischke, is farming. They have two children and live near Donald. Curtis — married Marjorie Mix, is carpentering and farming near Donald. Karla — student in grade seven.

Charlotte married Pastor Leonard McFarlane. He is a Lutheran Pastor at Westbank, B.C. They have four children. James — rehabilitation consultant, Ministry of health for the B.C. government, Cranbrook, B.C. Rhodah — married Graham Smith, a professor at Waterloo University, Ontario. Bruce — student at S.A.I.T., Calgary. Neil — student at Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute, Outlook, Saskatchewan.

Beatrice married Ed Kvemshagen; their story follows later. Bernice married Pastor Leonard Sogge, a Lutheran Pastor at Tofield. They have four children. Nathan — diesel Mechanic and operator at Crossfield, Alberta. Steven — construction, Lethbridge. Kristine — student at L.C.B.I., Outlook, Saskatchewan. Douglas — student in Tofield.

Marion married Howard Rasmussen, a farmer at Standard. They have three children. Carmen — pharmaceutical technician in Edmonton. Garth — operator at C.D.C. gas plant at Standard. Carol Ann — grade eleven student.

Sidelights:

Prices for our produce varied then as it does now. In looking over old records, it's interesting to see the prices we got for our labours. I picked out a few samples.

Eggs in 1927, 17-25¢ dozen, 1931, 7-13¢ dozen. Cost of Coal in 1922, \$2.50 ton; 1931, \$2.00 for 2 cars of coal; 1944, \$3.10 ton; 1955, \$2.50 a ton.

In 1921 sold turkeys for \$4.00 each; 1921 sold 4 yr. old horse for \$150.00; 1927 sold turkey hens for \$1.25, large dressed turkey to John Hagen for \$2.75.

Sold steers for 4¢ lb., and sucking calves for \$12-15.00.

In 1927 I printed 135 lbs. of butter for \$48.85.

1928 a team and man on threshing rig earned \$2.00 per day.

1932 ½ dressed hog brought \$4.00.

1933 Sold 3 yr. old steer, weight 112 lb. at 1 ¼¢ per lb. 6 head, 2 ½ to 4 yrs. brought \$101.65.

1934 Sold pigs for \$3.75 each, deducting trucking from that.

1935 Bought a month-old bull calf from Mike Dickey for \$1.50.

1956 6 cows sold for \$812.02 less trucking — \$793.25.

Alfred J. Vikse Family

Alfred J. Vikse was born in Pollock, South Dakota in 1902. He took his schooling at the Norbo school, leaving in Grade Eight to help on the family farm.

In 1918 he worked at the Merchants Bank in Donald for \$47.00 a month. During this year the bank was closed for a period of days, due to an outbreak of Spanish influenza.

At the age of twenty-three he returned to school, he attended Camrose Lutheran College where he obtained his High School diploma. This was no mean feat as he also took care of two quarter sections of land at the same time.

In 1931 he married Gladys Brager of Ohaton.



Alfred and Gladys Vikse, June 1931.

The Bragers operated the first store and post office in the Ohaton area. The store was also a school room and a community gathering place.

Gladys brought with her to the Vikse farm, four cows, two heifers, a new sewing machine and a new bedroom suite.

These were the days of wind, sudden dust storms and darkened sun. She recalls, the house had stood empty for some time and the dust had to be scooped out with a shovel before they could settle in.

Alfred and Gladys had three children, Mavis, Harvey and Arlene.

The mid thirties were difficult years to feed and clothe a family. Mavis recalls wearing a red double-breasted coat from the time she was four years old until she was twelve. The buttons were simply moved over and grey, curly fur was added to the hem and sleeves to give the necessary length.

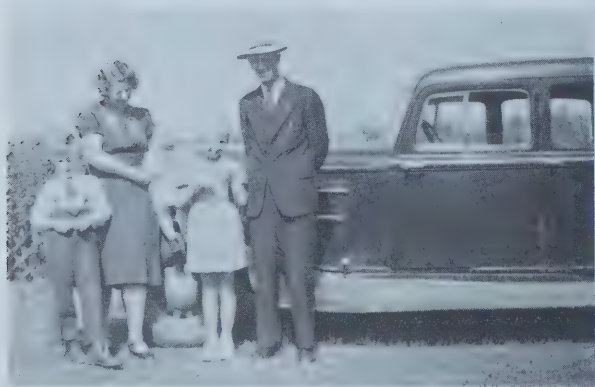
The "40's" brought hope and a brighter picture to Alberta agriculture. The family purchased their first car, a 1935 Plymouth in 1942.

That summer found them travelling to Sylvan Lake for their first family holiday. The children remember the top speed of thirty miles an hour as being extremely fast.

Alfred's first venture into politics came when he was elected as a councillor with the Municipal District of Haig, serving two years as deputy reeve. In 1943, Donalda became part of the Municipal District of Camrose. Alfred served four years as reeve as well as terms of office as chairman of the School Committee.

In 1963, the Municipal District of Camrose became the County of Camrose and Alfred was selected as its first reeve, and later served as chairman of the School Committee, a title he held until his retirement.

Probably the greatest achievements during



The Alfred Vikse family with their "new" 1935 Plymouth, purchased in 1942. L-R Harvey, Gladys, Arlene, Mavis and Alfred.

Alfred's terms of office were the development and construction of roads throughout the area, as well as the formation of Camrose County. Another project which gave him great satisfaction was the building of a County office in the city of Camrose.

He did not confine his interest to politics and farming, but rather, took on many community responsibilities. He served on the Camrose Lutheran College Board of Regents for twenty-one years; was a member of the Stettler Hospital Board for six years; a member of the Alberta Health Unit for thirty years; served five years as a member of St. Mary's Hospital Lay Advisory Board; was a member of the Donalda Locker Plant for twenty-one years; served as chairman and for twenty-seven years was a member of the Donalda Co-operative Creamery Ltd., was vice-president of the Evergreen Rural Electrification Association for seven years; served as a representative on the Bashaw Seed Cleaning Plant for eight years; was a member of the Camrose and District Social Services Committee; was a member of Bethany Lutheran Church until his retirement to Camrose, he served as a Deacon for twelve years and as chairman of the Board for two years.

On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen to the throne, Alfred was awarded a Jubilee medal, the medal was in recognition of services to the community.

Recently, Camrose Lutheran College awarded him the "Distinguished Alumnus" award, for services to the College and to the community.

Alfred and Gladys have retired and live in Camrose. They are active in the work of Messiah Lutheran Church, the Gideons, and the Museum Society.

Their home is always open to a host of relatives and friends.

Mavis (Vikse) Jensen

Mavis (Vikse) Jensen took her public schooling at the Norbo school, just three miles from the Vikse homestead. She attended Camrose Lutheran College, the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute and studied Education at the University of Alberta.

She is married to Jens Jensen of Cochrane, Alberta. Jens' parents immigrated from Denmark in 1929 and operated a dairy farm west of Calgary for many years.

Mavis and Jens live in Edberg, Alberta. Jens is employed as a machinist and welder at Stelco, Camrose.

The couple have four sons, Daniel is a graduate of the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, Camrose Lutheran College and is presently studying Journalism at the University of Alberta.



Jens and Mavis Jensen, 1979.

Gordon is also a graduate of the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, Camrose Lutheran College, and is enrolled in pre-Theology at the University of Alberta. Gordon is married to Brenda Hale of Lethbridge.

Grant is in his second and final year at the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute.

Alan, at home, is taking his grade nine at the Edberg school.

Harvey G. Vikse

Harvey, the only son of Alfred and Gladys Vikse, grew up on the farm homesteaded by his Grandfather. He, together with his sisters, listened to stories told by Grandpa Jacob, accompanied by the swosh, swosh of the butter churn.

Wonderful and sometimes frightening stories of sea voyages, ship wrecks, birth, death, treks across vast prairies, Indians, prairie fires, breaking the land and the depression of 1892. Grandpa Jacob was a story teller extraordinary.

Family was important, and they were surrounded by Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles and Cousins.

Harvey tells about the time he and his cousin, David Berg, were pre-schoolers.

The pigs had a wonderfully wet, muddy wallow out behind the barn. The two boys rolled around in the thick ooze, literally "rubbing shoulders" with the pigs.

They were not too popular with their mothers when they were discovered.

Going to school at Norbo was an adventure. In the summer they had three miles of exhilarating horse



The Harvey Vikse family, 1973. L-R David, Harvey, Miriam, Ruth, Stephen.

back or sometimes democrat rides. In the winter the distance was covered on skis.

The skis were strapped to their winter boots, worn with felt liners and no socks. Sometimes the skis would come off and careen down the hill, then the barefoot skier had to stumble through the cold snow to retrieve the offending ski.

When Norbo days were over, the students were bussed to Meeting Creek, the change was almost stultifying for these robust, outdoors kids.

Harvey attended Camrose Lutheran College and the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, then returned to the family farm.

He married Ruth Jensen of Edmonton. Ruth's experiences with farm living were somewhat limited. She says, "We had electricity, cold running water, and outdoor plumbing. It was the night time excursions to the outhouse that aged me the most. Everything moved, breathed, or brushed your face in passing."

We were married for several years before I discovered it was owls making those strange noises at nights. I used to wonder why Donald and Evelyn Vikse let their children play outside so late."

Harvey and Ruth, following family tradition, are active in the work of Bethany Lutheran Church.

Harvey is involved in several other organizations as well, some of them being, Willow Canyon Ski Club, Donalda; the Evergreen Rural Electrification

Association, the Farm Labor Pool, Camrose; the Edberg Home and School Association; the Lutheran Red Deer Lake Bible Camp Association.

Ruth is a homemaker as well as a writer, she is currently writing a monthly page for **The Shepherd**, the national news magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

She also sits on the Board of the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, and is a graduate of this school.

The couple have three children.

Miriam took her public schooling at Meeting Creek and Edberg schools. She is a graduate of the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute and is presently living in Prince George, British Columbia, where she is an operator for British Columbia Telephones and Associate Staff Worker for Youth for Christ.

David also attended Meeting Creek and Edberg Schools and is presently enrolled in Grade twelve at the Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute in Outlook, Saskatchewan.

Stephen, his Grade Eight completed in Meeting Creek, is a Grade Nine student at Edberg.

Arlene (Vikse) Weidman

Arlene, the youngest of the Alfred Vikse children, also took her public schooling at Norbo, with the final year at the newly consolidated school in Meeting Creek.

She graduated from Camrose Lutheran College and the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute. She studied nursing at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary, graduating from that school.

She is married to Dennis Weidman of Olds, Alberta. The couple reside in Richmond, British Columbia.

Dennis is the manager for the British Columbia and the Yukon region Honeywell Controls.

They have two children, Lynnette and Randy, still at home.

Annie (Vikse) Bergum

The first settlers in this area had to go to Wetaskiwin for all their supplies. This was a two day trip each way so it was necessary to spend a night with friends enroute.

In January 1905, Jacob and Aasa Vikse were returning home from one of these shopping trips and chose to spend the night with the pastor who lived somewhere between the present Edberg and New Norway.

It so happened there was to be a funeral at the Pastor's home the following day. Mrs. Hustad had died, leaving five children under fifteen years of age.



Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Bergum.

After the burial Mr. Hustad had to decide what to do about his children. He felt he could manage the four older ones, but did not think he could cope with the nine month old baby.

After some serious thinking, the Vikses offered to take her. So Annie became their legally adopted daughter.

Annie attended public school in Norbo. She loved school and early in life decided to be a teacher. With this in mind she attended Camrose Lutheran College and Camrose Normal School.

After teaching for five years, she married



Keith, Audrey and David Bergum, 1954.

Leonard Bergum. Leonard, at that time was operating a garage in Bawlf.

It was in Bawlf that their daughter Audrey, and two sons, David and Keith were born. All three children attended Camrose Lutheran College.

Audrey chose to follow her Mother's example, and became a school teacher. After two years in Alberta, she went to California to teach. Here she met and married Meach Flanigan. Meach has a print shop in Burbank, California. The Flanigans have two children, Karen and Charles.

David and Keith chose to follow their Dad's footsteps and have gone into business in Weyburn, Saskatchewan.

David and his wife Bea have two children, Kathy and Jeffery.

Keith and Marianne have three children, Keith Jr., Jody and Kimberly.

Leonard and Annie settled in Camrose when they reached retirement age. Leonard passed away January 1, 1975. Annie continues to live in Camrose.

Leslie E. Wing

Leslie Wing was born in 1924, and grew up in the Bashaw — Ferintosh area. In 1952 he was hired for farm labor by Donald Vikse. Leslie spent 23 years in the community, working for Donald and occasionally for Conrad Vikse, and for Alfred and Harvey Vikse. He loved a joke on himself or someone else.

Evelyn Vikse tells about a time they were enjoying pancakes for supper. In a sudden burst of imagination, she tore off the corner of a dish towel and laid it on the batter which was baking in the pan, placing more batter on top.

The innocent appearing pancake was served to Leslie. He encountered great difficulty in cutting it, then realized he had been fooled again!

On another occasion Leslie and his brother David accompanied the Harvey Vikses on a holiday. Not too familiar with the rudiments of sleeping and dressing in a pup tent, they entertained the immediate campground with the grotesque manipulations necessary for two men dressing, at the same time, in such a confined space. At any moment, the watchers expected the orange tent to abort. When the men appeared, dishevelled but triumphant, the onlookers, with amused smiles went back to their tasks.

Les thoroughly enjoyed playing horseshoes and with the sack of horseshoes slung over his back, would walk miles for a game. He loved children and always carried a treat of some kind in his pocket. He was also a dependable babysitter.

In December, 1975, Leslie moved to Penticton,

British Columbia, to be with his mother, Mrs. Ida Jenkins, and his brother David. Mrs. Jenkins passed away in the fall of 1976, Leslie and David lived for awhile in Penticton, but now have purchased a home in Summerland, British Columbia, where they raise a large garden, and can and freeze the produce.

Each summer sees them at Red Deer Lake for Bible Camp. Thus keeping alive their many friendships and ties to the area.

Arie and Clazina DeRooy

Arie and Clazina DeRooy came from the Netherlands to Saskatchewan in 1921, then in 1922 they arrived in the Donalda-Red Willow area where they lived in a house owned by Henry Christians (Willie Christians' Grandfather).

Following are some letters written by the DeRooy's, to their family in the Netherlands.

Arie's Father passed away two years after Arie and Clazien migrated to Canada. His mother kept the letters, upon her death they were preserved by one of Arie's sisters.

Originally written in Dutch, they were translated for their American descendants.

The DeRooy's had eight children, William, Tena and Anthony arrived with their parents; Gertrude, was born while they were at Red Willow; Alice, Grace, Agnes, Henry, Nelle and Winnifred were born after the family moved to Washington, United States of America.

The letters were offered for printing by the Rev. Henry DeRooy of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

By Arie
from Red Willow, Alta.

14 May, 1922
Dear Parents, etc.,

By God's grace we here are all in good health. The Dutch consul in Calgary told us that our passport had expired and that we would have to wait three weeks for a new one. We had some money, but not enough for that long a stay, so after twelve days we came here. I've taken a job here with a German for \$50. a month until winter, then \$30. I also have land for two cows and about 500 hills of potatoes. The land here is very good. I have bought a cow with a calf of four months for 35 dollars. The cow gives about three gallons of milk a day. I have another with a 2 month old calf, but the calf gets some of her milk. So we get about 4 ½ gallons a day. We also have our own house. That's really nice for Clazien. I am quite busy. It's a 15 minute walk to the farmer, and I work 12 hours a day.

We have a lot of woods around the house where

we can cut all the wood we want. We can get coal from a mine about an hour's ride from here. I think we'll be able to live cheap here.

By Arie

Red Willow, Alta.

January, 1923

I'm always glad when I see that you yourself have written. Better a little note from you than a letter by someone else about you. If it is very difficult for you (as I suspect) then you had better let someone else write.

Mother, I am happy with that small letter because of what you wrote in it, that you believe that you belong to Christ, and even in that difficult trial are able to give God thanks. For whom would I want that more than for her who taught me early to bow my knee before God, and who with motherly tenderness and love carried me and nourished me. I want it especially because of the sorrow I caused you, particularly during those couple of very dark years before the light of freedom began to dawn in my own soul.

How much I would like to hear that from Father too. And yet I believe (I cannot do otherwise) that we will also someday meet him in white clothes rejoicing before the throne of God.

May God allow you to continue in that light. Mother you must read Psalm 23 often. That psalm both gives us comfort for our earthly journey and increases our longing to be with our Redeemer.

Goodby, Mother

The following letter alludes to the fact that Arie's Father has died and the DeRoos are awaiting the birth of their daughter, Gertrude.

By Clazien

Red Willow

7 January, 1923

Dear Mother,

Write big, Arie says, then Mother can read it by herself. Well, I can write big — that's easy enough.

Wijntje wrote that you had been at their place for ten days when Marietje was born. Well, you'll have to do that now for me, too. Yeah, if that could only be. Instead Arie will have to be the housekeeper. He'll get his fill of that in a hurry. But we don't enjoy having a stranger around either. But the woman who will come to help is available also for other days if I want her. She lives rather far away — at least an hour's travel — but if it's necessary a neighbor will give us a hand and fetch her.

I hope that before that time we will have milk from our cow. She will freshen in mid-January, we'll need it then. At present we have to buy butter, milk we get for free from a neighbor — I mean skim milk — because otherwise he just gives it to the chickens.

I hope too that the chickens will begin laying soon, they're doing nothing now — fortunately I put some eggs away earlier. We have enough meat, and once in a while Arie shoots a rabbit — they taste really good.

Now, Mother, I don't have much more news. But as soon as the waiting time is over, we'll write. At Christmas the children each received a sack with nuts and candies at the Christmas party. They always have a Christmas party, for old and young, at the school — with a Christmas tree. Thanks for the New Year's card. God's blessing Mother.

Arie, Clazien and the children.

By Arie

Red Willow

20 March, 1923

Dear Mother,

This letter is admittedly overdue, but if I write every four weeks, I still never have any news. And since I write also to others, you do still get something.

By God's grace, we are all still healthy, and we hope that it is true of you and the others.

All the children are growing fast and appear to be very healthy. Wim is becoming such a nice boy. If he can find nails, he hammers everything together. And if I do some hammering at night he sits right up in bed and watches or he stays up as long as we let him. Friday night he stayed up till 10:30, while I was making a doll bed and when it was finished, he took it to bed and slept with it. And he questions everything.

Teuns is also developing well, but then she is a year younger. If I don't give her a kiss when I go outside, she will cry for two or three hours on end.

Tonnie is still full of mischief, and we can't help laughing at him. He is really husky.

Gerrie is growing nicely, I think she looks like Aachje's Janna, though she won't ever be as heavy.

To this point, we're having a very ordinary winter. But I had enough long ago, and I hope spring comes soon.

We still have it good here. Things generally are cheap. Two weeks ago we sold the first 24 eggs from our 40 chickens for 25 cents a dozen. So they are not expensive. Nothing here is.

Our cow gives just enough milk for our own use, for butter and the like. When spring comes and new grass, she'll do better. Meanwhile, it's much too cold for the cow. And our chickens too. They laid no eggs from December 12 to March 1. Several have gotten their combs frozen, and some their feet.

By Arie

Red Willow

5 December, 1923

Dear Mother,

God is still good to us, and we know also to you.

Today I sent \$10.00 to your address. We wanted to do that earlier, but it took three weeks before we got the money for the chickens. I don't know whether you will receive it in Canadian money or Dutch. If it's Canadian, you can get Hendrik or Willem to change it for you at the Bank.

We hope to do this again later. I don't want to send it in a letter because I'll have no record if it gets lost. What you'll use it for is naturally for you to figure out yourself.

This year we let some hens set, and it went very well. I let them set about \$2.50 worth of eggs. I kept 32 roosters and 38 pullets from the hatch. Three weeks ago I sold 27 old chickens and 27 young roosters for about 45 cents each. That's the money I got today. The chickens went to the Edmonton market and now, subtracting the shipping cost and all, I still had \$24.35.

Our cow still produces real well. One of our neighbors who moved away said that we could pasture our cow in his land. That is tilled land where oats and wheat had grown and which had been poorly mowed. It is about 85 acres, and the cow can more than fill her belly every day with the heads of grain alone.

Last week I went to a farm sale. I bought Clazien an old wash machine for one dollar. Also some English books (novels) and a big water kettle. And a calf, which we butchered yesterday. That meat cost me 6 cents a pound. We also have enough canned vegetables, potatoes, wood and coal. So because God is good, we don't fear poverty. Monday I hauled 150 bushels of coal from the mine for four dollars.

The weather is beautiful almost every day. No winter yet. The ice will support a horse, but that's because of hard frost every night four weeks ago. The frost is much lighter now. So we don't yet call it winter.

When you get this, it will soon be New Year's. So wish you a blessed 1924, Mother.

For you this year hasn't been so full of trouble and sorrow as the one before. But I know well that because you can't forget it, it will always be sorrow for you, until the Lord our God undertakes to change your troubles forever into joy.

Will you tell Hendrik thanks for the newspapers? He mustn't send them again, however, because it costs too much.

It's been six weeks since we've heard anything from Holland.

by Clazien
Red Willow

5 December, 1923

Dear Mother,

I've thrown down my darning for a few minutes to write to you. Arie is in the kitchen, singing while he washes up. The children are all in bed, the stove is snorting, the cat is loafing on the floor, and we have just finished our first cup of coffee. Maybe you can come and help us drink the rest of the pot. If only that could be — that we were neighbors, coffeing back and forth. But we might as well pretend that if that were the case we'd probably find a lot to fight about, and at least that can't happen now.

But now something else. I hope in my heart that we will get to see each other face to face again on this earth. But I am still very glad that we can give some financial support. Arie has talked about this for a long time, that when his father was old, he would like to make his old age more comfortable. But that wish will never be fulfilled, and so I would be very happy if we could somehow lighten the burden and cares of your life. But we, of course, have the misfortune of needing to work many years to pay off the debt which we had in Holland. We'll never feel free from that until we have paid every cent. But we regard it as just as great a duty, which we would lovingly fulfill, to give support to our mother, as much as is in our power. For that reason too we hope that the Lord will bless our work.

We are already saving up again for a trip. This last year we lived much more economically than the year before. Next year we hope to fulfill our wish to move — and may it be a place where there is a Christian Reformed Church. Then we hope to save up for one more thing; that Arie can go into business for himself, because as long as he stays a laborer it's impossible to get anywhere. If God blesses us while in our own business, there is, humanly speaking, a far better chance. Not that I want luxuries for myself — rather to clear the record in Holland.

by Arie

(Letterhead; St. Francis Hotel "Opposite Canadian Pacific Railroad"; Vancouver, B.C.)

Dear Mother,

We are in good health. At the moment we are in this hotel. We are not permitted to enter the U.S. before July. We hope soon to send you a proper address. In the meantime to find work.

It is beautiful here; wonderful scenes of our trip.

Tomorrow, the Lord willing, we're going to Powell River, where I think I can find work. But how wonderful it would be if you were also here to see these beautiful things. God shows us His marvelous power and majesty so clearly here in every scene. For 12 hours we traveled on the train along the river

where the mountains rose steep on both sides, and didn't have eye enough to see it all. The children marvelled as we did.

Don't pity us now, please. We have money enough for a while.

The next letter, by Arie, is dated March 31, and opens with the comment, "Naturally it bothers us to have to wait with entering the U.S.; our money is running out. I hope to get work soon and save a little."

The DeRooy's finally made it to Washington where they settled, and in time were buried, many of their family are living in the Seattle area today.

And so, another immigrant family, in search of a place to call home, made their way across Canada, through Alberta.

They became part of our history, as their lives touched ours for two brief years; because this correspondence was preserved, the memory of their sojourn will remain with us.

Poplar Grove School District

DONALDA
[icon]

		Chris Johnson	
31		32	33
		Lizzie Olson	
Fred Ullman		School Land	Oscar Olson C. Henrikson
30		29	28
Peter Kryger	George Creighton	Poplar Grove [icon]	Bob Westey Wilson Clement
		Henry Vincent	
19		20	21
		Jerry John Fitzpatrick McLeod	
Andy Smith	ANNE Cameron		Angus Bill McLeod Robinson
18		17	16
John Smith	Melvin Tucker		John Leo Tucker Olson
		HBC HBC	
7		8	9
		HBC HBC	

Poplar Grove School District No 1525
SE 1/4 29-41-W4.

History of the Poplar Grove School District No. 1525

The Poplar Grove School District was formed in August of 1906. The board of Trustees were R. L. (Bob) Wilson, Pete Kryger and H. E. Smith.

Taken from the minutes of the first School Board meeting; Pete Kryger was elected chairman and John McLeod Secretary-Treasurer. Tenders were received and read for the building of the schoolhouse and the out buildings. John B. Clark, having the lowest bid of \$790. was awarded the contract. One thousand dollars to be borrowed and debentures issued payable in fifteen equal payments. The school was built on the S.E. ¼-29-41-W4. The district was named Poplar Grove because of the groves of poplar trees in the near area.



Poplar Grove School Children 1919. Verlie Fitzpatrick, Nola Tucker, Herman Regan, Alma Kahl, Lola Fitzpatrick, Cleo Kahl, Matilda Graf, Bookie Tucker, Irene Blaney, Lucy Graf, Ray Fitzpatrick, Henry Graf. (teacher was James I. Jones)

It is interesting to note that the first order of supplies included; fifteen desks (no price), one school bell — 75¢ a half dozen erasers — 50¢ three boxes of chalk \$2.00.

The homesteaders in the district at this time were: Jerry Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Elizabeth Olson, Bob Wilson, Pete Kryger, Fred Ullman, Wesley Clement, H. E. Smith, John McLeod, John Tucker, and Henry Vincent.

Henry Vincent was the first flu casualty in the district in 1918.

Many of these settlers sold out and moved away and new people moved in. Some of the newcomers were Hoyt Clovis, Williamsons, Casebeers, Grafts, and Tom Pounds.

Still farming in the area are the families of the Tuckers, Fitzpatricks, and Clements.

Due to the inability of the Board to secure the

services of a teacher; Helen Murphy, a certified teacher from Arkansas, was given a letter of Authority by the Department of Education to teach. She taught for six months and was then followed by Gertrude Martin. Some of the other teachers were: Esther Albright (later Mrs. Williams), still living in Edmonton; Jim Jones, who became a lawyer, was appointed to Kings Council, practised and retired in Mannville and now lives in Edmonton; Mr. MacIl-len; Miss Archibald; and Pearl Barnett who later became Mrs. Fred Dinwoodie. School was only held in the summer months due to cold weather and difficulty of getting teachers.

The school closed in the fall of 1917 when Poplar Grove, Seven Nations and East Donalda Consolidated with the Donalda School and the school be-



Poplar Grove School Children 1916. Cleo Kahl, Lola Fitzpatrick Robin Adair, Nola Tucker, Bookie Tucker, Alma Kahl, Verlie Fitzpatrick, Alma Clovis.

came the Donalda Consolidated No. 57. In the spring of 1918 three horse drawn vans conveyed the children to the two room school in Donalda.

As the need for more classroom space became necessary, John Tucker contracted to move the Poplar Grove School to Donalda. In 1920 with the use of twenty-four head of horses and the help of Jerry Fitzpatrick, Max Damberger and John Graf, acting as teamsters, the building was moved into place.

Some of the pupils who attended Poplar Grove School were; Edna Olson, Ursa Ullman, Roy and Alma Clovis, Lee Hodgson (nephew of Dave McKay), Alma and Cleo Kahl, Carl Lynne, Clifton, Vivian and Winston Clement, Robin Adair, Verlie, Lola and Ray Fitzpatrick, Nola and Joseph Tucker, Earl and Ethel Casebeer, Matilda, Lucy and Henry Graf, Herman Regan, and Irene Blaney.

Some of the early van drivers were: Bob Burns, Bob Wilson, Bullard, Erickson, Sam Strahan, Dick Dolan, Roy Heisz, Ray Banta and Cortez Damberger.

Anna Cameron Family

Anna Cameron and her children Herb, Cora, Mable, Irene, Hank and Leonard lived on the homestead only a short time, then moved to Stettler. They will be especially remembered for their musical contribution to the community dances and parties. Mabel (Mrs. Baxtrom) and Cora (Mrs. Watson) both reside in Stettler. Hank married Ella Murphy and now lives in Mesa, Arizona.

Two Belgian men lived on the Cameron place for a time. They undertook to raise potatoes in a commercial way but when they could find no market for their big crop, they left. Tom Pounds, Fred Smiths, Albert Rake, and Shorty Adams lived there in turn before Jerry Fitzpatrick bought the land.

The Wesley Clement Story

Wesley was born near Souix City, Iowa, sixth in a family of twelve. He started working out at an early age, on farms and then worked himself up to be a fireman on the railway.

He had relatives by the name of Whitecotts, who had gone to start a new life in Canada. In the spring of 1902 he was on the journey by train bound for Lacombe. He was met by his uncle Bob Whitecotton. The land here was settled for quite a distance around, so he set out on foot, travelling as far as Donalda area. He located first about two miles west of where the town is today. He wasn't too happy with this land. After talking with new acquaintances from the east part of the country, they convinced him he would be happier where the land wasn't so hilly and less sloughs. He filed on a quarter across from the present farm site.

The country was still sparsely settled. Chris Henrikson was neighbor to the north, the Jones and Barbers to the east and Billy Robinson to the south. Like many pioneers he made many long trips to

Lacombe for supplies, tho' he did a lot of his trading at Old Red Willow General Store. He rode horseback to the Harker Post office for his mail.



Darryl, Lynn, Bonnie, Lionel, Evelyn and Clifton Clement

His first buildings, a house and a barn were made of logs which he cut by hand. The large barn was later moved to the present farm site.

The horses had to be tethered out at night as there were no fences, so to his surprise one morning he found them all missing. He found out later that a band of Indians had made off with them.

Weary travellers often stopped in for the night. One night he was awakened by a loud knock, only to welcome Bill MacKie and Herb Blair who were on their way back to Stettler. An evening was spent around the old heater learning from one another the latest happenings.

Land was gradually being bought, so Wesley decided to expand. In 1909 he became the owner of the Albert Switzer farm, across from his homestead.

Two years later he married Evelyn Adair. She came from England and had spent some time in Winnipeg. She wasn't too aware of the different customs of the west. On the night of their wedding, they were startled by strange noises and many voices. She immediately thought they were being surrounded by Indians. It turned out to be a joyous occasion, they were being chivareed.

Wesley decided that life on the farm didn't have to be all work. In the spring of 1912 a high-pressure salesman from Stettler visited him and talked him into buying a Model "T" Ford Car. Wesley rode to Stettler with the dealer, and after negotiating the



Wesley Clement Family. Clifton, Ken, Vivian, Dorothy, Winston, Robin.

deal, he was given a few instructions, after which he proceeded to drive for home. The salesman followed him, realizing this was a new experience for a pioneer. Two cowboys on their horses were approaching him, so he recognized them with one hand on the wheel, and a big howdy with the other. He soon lost control and found himself heading for Willow Creek. Lucky for him the cowboys had lariats, so they pulled him to safety with little damage done, the rest of the journey was made safely.

He enjoyed his farm and took great pride in his work. He raised Aberdeen Angus cattle. He kept a close check on them on the range, by taking a drive every Sunday morning with his team and top buggy. He had a prize Percheron stallion which sired many colts, which he later broke for farming operations. He usually had thirty to thirty-five head of horses, so a change of outfits could be made available.

The garden was an important part of Wesley's farm. Large quantities of onions, rhubarb, potatoes, etc. were harvested. The neighbors enjoyed getting a buggy load of C.P.R. strawberries (rhubarb).

Farming with horses was a lot of work. Mechanized methods were being introduced so he bought a Stickney engine to operate the threshing outfit. Later in 1919 he was the owner of a Titan Tractor, making farming operations much easier. Harvesting was a hard job using a binder, and stooking. Later came the threshing, sometimes as many as twenty men were required. At this time Wesley bought a pull-type combine (1928). Then in 1933, he bought a Barging Outfit as straight combining didn't seem to be satisfactory. This machine eliminated stooking, the grain was swept up to the threshing machine, and was used satisfactorily for a number of years.

He also made work easier in the house by having a Delco Plant installed in 1915. The power plant made it possible to have electric lights, and a 32 volt washing machine, which was used until power came into this area in 1950.

By this time, the country was getting quite well settled. Bob Wilson and Henry Vincent lived to the west. The McKay families to the east and a number of neighbors farther over in the Science Mound district. Lots of visiting took place in the early days, Mrs. Clement was fond of riding horseback and was often joined by other ladies of the district.

She was very talented in oil painting and enjoyed the great outdoors to produce her pictures. She also found much pleasure in playing the piano. Wesley liked a good game of horseshoes where several competitions took place at community picnics.

There were seven children in the family; Robin, Clifton, Vivian, Winston, Dorothy, and Kenneth.



Winston Clement Family. Back row: Winston, Garry, Freda. Front row: Roger, Sharon, Allan.

One son John passed away in 1921 at the age of seven. Mrs. Clement passed away at an early age in 1926.

Wesley carried on the farming operation with the help of his family as they grew older. Laura Ellis was a great help to them for many years. An excellent housekeeper and a wonderful gardener.

Everyone in those days enjoyed getting together for visiting, playing cards, or someone would bring the fiddle and banjo for a good old time evening of dancing in the homes. Lots of times all the family would pile into the old bob-sled or covered van stopping along the way to be joined by other neighbors. Quite often they would have to change horses as the load was too heavy for a long distance, sometimes going as far east as Hastings Coulee. Card parties were held at Dave Andersons, the Ed Woods and others in the Spruce Coulee districts as well as down here.

The summers were fun with work and pleasure together. Wild fruits grew abundantly, so they would load up the buggy with cream cans and pails and drive quite a distance to a good patch of saskatoons, chokecherries, raspberries or whatever was to be found. A big picnic lunch was packed to make the day complete. They had their own beef or pork, and did their own butchering. The meat would be canned or fried down for future use.

In the fall he got out wood, then the neighbors would get together and have a sawing bee so everyone would have a big wood pile for winter. Wesley mined some coal for himself from the range until the coal mines in the valley came into operation. In the spring a supply of ice was stored in a shed in the grove. On a hot summer day they all enjoyed a big

bowl of Laura's homemade ice cream. The ice would also be used to keep milk, meat, etc. cold.

Wesley retired from farming in 1947, and moved to Edmonton. He married again and still enjoyed a busy life. He bought houses and kept busy repairing them.

He loved to travel, especially different bus tours around Canada and the United States. At one time he owned a summer home in Banff where they all spent some time. The family recalls their Dad bringing home a new McLaughlin-Buick which was on display at the Edmonton Exhibition in 1917.

Robin attended the Poplar Grove School and Donalda, later completing his schooling in Vancouver. He then left for California where he was employed at Paramount Studios for a number of years. He has one son living in the U.S. Robin is planning to move to Florida, where he and his wife Marge will enjoy retirement.

In 1944, Clifton married Evelyn Rankin. They lived at Red Willow for two years, moving back to Donalda in 1947. Upon Wesley's retirement, Clifton bought the farm from his dad. He is still on the farm.

There are four children, Daryl and his wife Ferne have two boys, Curtis and Craig. They live on the present farm site, carrying on the farm operation. Lynn and her husband Bob Johnson, live at Sherwood Park. She is manager of Medigas in Edmonton. Bonnie has taught school at Delburne and Bentley. She and her husband Dale Vallet have one daughter Megan, and live in Lacombe. Lionel is attending Olds School of Agriculture.

Vivian attended Camrose Normal school. She taught at Spruce Coulee at one time. She and her husband Ted Mawer live at High Level on a farm, where she is still quite happy teaching school. They have a family of seven, who are all away in different careers. It was their eldest daughter, Cheryl and her husband Reil that had the Meeting Creek Hotel moved to its present site in Donalda. They both live in Medicine Hat and have two boys.

Winston left Donalda in the thirties to the High River-Nanton district for a couple of years. He had a coffee shop in Nanton for a while, then decided to move back to Donalda. He started a business for Massey-Harris, also a hardware. He was councillor and later Mayor of the village. He married Freda Lloyd in 1939, they both participated in community affairs. They have four children Gary and his wife Barbara have three daughters. Gary is in the hardware business with his Dad. Allen and his wife Betty Jane live in Edmonton and have two girls. He is employed at the University of Alberta. Roger and his wife Arlene live in Donalda and have a family of four

girls. Roger works with an oil company. Sharon is married to Eric Blouin, they live in Stettler and have two sons. Freda passed away in 1971. Winston later married again and with the help of his wife Pauline still keeps busy in the hardware.

Dorothy attended the University of Alberta for a time, and later left for Toronto where she completed her nurses training. She later married Jim Brown from Toronto. They moved west where he was employed as chief chemist in different paper plants. They had five children, all of whom are in the field of medicine, two being doctors. They live in Everett, Washington, where Dorothy passed away in 1972, followed by her husband one year later.

Kenneth completed his grade twelve in Donalda and immediately joined the air force. Later he went to India, England and China. He met Irene Ainsley in England and after the war they were married. They have four children. Ken had a construction business in Winnipeg for a number of years. He is now semi-retired and lives in South Delta, British Columbia.

George Creighton

George Creighton lived for many years in the area with his sister and brother-in-law Maggie and Dave McKay. Dr. Creighton, a pioneer doctor at Old Red Willow, and later of Stettler, was a brother; Mrs. Tom Baird of Red Willow was a sister.

This quarter of land was never lived on. It was owned by John Graf, then Clyde Heater, and now belongs to Harry Erickson.

The Fitzpatrick Story

Jerry Fitzpatrick was born December 16, 1874 at Withrope, Iowa. His folks were immigrants from Ireland. As a young man he saw a future in farming in Alberta so in 1906 he came by train to Wetaskiwin, Alberta. For two weeks he travelled with Oscar Olson, Edd Heater and Add Hill, all looking for homesteads. Their means of travel was a rented team of horses and a democrat. They found in the now



Jerry Fitzpatrick Family 1929. Ray, Lola, Lyle, Minnie, Verlie, Jerry.



Verlie Fitzpatrick at 4 months. First baby born in Poplar Grove District, 1907.

Donalda district the land of their choice. Jerry filed on the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 20-41-18 W4. He returned to Leland, Idaho. On July 20, 1906 he was united in marriage to Minnie Vincent at Spokane, Washington and they then set out for their homestead. They travelled to Stettler by train, and from there to the homestead by wagon and horses. There to start a new life of hauling water from a neighbour, Mr. Switzer, washing clothes in a tub with a washboard, churning butter,



Minnie Fitzpatrick — 92 years of age, Donalda's oldest citizen.

baking bread, making cheese and sewing their own clothes.

Minnie knew something about homesteading as her mother and father had homesteaded in Idaho. Jerry and Minnie lived in a tent for six weeks while the neighbors helped them build a 12' x 16' two room house. The neighbors then put up hay for the twenty-five head of cattle they had.

The winter of 1906-07 was the severest winter the homesteaders ever experienced. The temperature dropped to 68 degrees below zero with three feet of snow on the level. The men worked during the winter going to Willow Creek, several miles away, cutting logs and hauling them home to build a barn in the spring of 1907.

The closest Post Office was at Old Red Willow some ten miles away. Later a family named Harkers looked after the mail for many miles around.

The homesteaders' supplies were obtained from Wetaskiwin, Lacombe and Stettler. In 1909 a small town, (Donalda), three and a half miles away sprung up with several businesses.

The closest doctor was Dr. Creighton of Stettler who travelled many miles in all directions by horse and buggy.

With the hardships and trying times, Jerry, along with other neighbors had to fight many prairie fires to save their homes.

In 1907 the Poplar Grove School District was formed and the school was built on the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 29-41-19 W4. Jerry served on the school board for many years.

In 1909 the Canadian Northern Railway Company surveyed the railway through Jerry's land. The line was to go through the barn and a stack of 200 tons of hay, so the barn and hay had to be moved. In September of 1909 they started building the railroad. Those working on the railroad were: Jim Pound, Contractor; Fred Dinwoodie, Fred Teboe and William Klemme. On May 10, 1910 the steel rails were laid. All the above mentioned men stayed in the district and took up farming.

To their marriage four children were born; Verlie (being the first baby born in the Poplar Grove District) now Mrs. Ernie Steinhoff, farmed in the Up-To-Date district and is now living in Bashaw. Lola became Mrs. Robert Proudly of Edmonton, Ray married Mary Heater and now lives in Camrose, Lyle married Edith Anderson and is now retired from the Alberta Wheat Pool and lives in Donalda.

The family took part in all community activities. Jerry and Minnie both had their 25-year jewels from the Odd Fellow and Rebekah Lodges. Jerry served on the Poplar Grove school board and was also a

member of the Donalda Agricultural Fair Society. He loved livestock and had a fine herd of Hereford cattle. He also bred and sold Hamiltonian Saddle horses.

Jerry and Minnie retired from the farm in May, 1954. After a lengthy illness Jerry passed away October 6, 1958 at the age of 84 years. Minnie, at the age of 93 years, lives at her home in Donalda except in the winter months when she stays at the Bashaw Valley Lodge.

The John Graf Story

by Ida Jones

John Graf was born August 14, 1883 and emigrated from his village of Pilgerstorf, Austria to North Dakota about 1903. From here he travelled to the Lethbridge area where he met his future bride, who was a former classmate in the same Austrian village. Kathrina Linter, born August 21, 1884 had come to Canada with her sister and family (the Joe Renners) who settled near Nobleford, Alberta.

This young couple were married at Diamond City, just northeast of Lethbridge in August 1907. Here John worked as a drayman for a time. Four of their children were born in this area; Matilda (October 28, 1908), Lucy (December 9, 1909), Henry (October 26, 1911) and Frances (October 9, 1914).

When Frances was two weeks old the family moved to Halkirk, Alberta where John farmed and another daughter Anne was born (January 21, 1916). From here they moved to Hastings Coulee and then to Donalda in 1917 and settled on the farm two miles south and one-half mile west, the place which all the children consider "home". Here, two more daughters

were born; Ida (July 31, 1918) and Elsie (June 29, 1921).

The three eldest children first attended Poplar Grove school. This must have been quite an experience for them and their teacher as they could only speak German. They soon learned English and to date hardly remember any German. Some of their classmates were: Robin Adair, Alma and Cleo Kahl, Nola and Joe Tucker, Verlie, Lola and Ray Fitzpatrick. In 1919 this school was moved to Donalda where it was made a part of the Donalda Consolidated School District No. 57.

From that time children were transported to school via the old horse-drawn van; on wheels in summer and on sleighs in winter.

I can still remember the smell of hot rubber from the foot warmers on those cold winter mornings travelling to school in the van.

Ours was a busy household, as any would be, with a family of seven children. There was no conveniences in our home. We were considered very fortunate to have a flowing well where all one had to do was fill a water pail by turning a tap. Endless trips were made on wash days, heating water in a large copper or galvanized boiler on a wood and coal burning stove. Imagine the size of a wash for nine people done on a scrubbing board! How many of us can remember bathing in wash tubs placed near a open oven door in the winter?

Many dances were held in our large kitchen which had a hard wood floor. All furniture except the stove and the cupboard was moved out, our piano moved in from the livingroom and the dance was on! All our neighbours attended some being; Fitzpatricks, McLellans, Dambergers, Tuckers, Kahls, and many from Donalda and surrounding communities.

My brother Henry and neighbour Andy McLellan helped play for many dances. People were always amazed at those two, playing violins left-handed.

When I was ten or twelve years old, I often became part of the orchestra, accompanying them at the piano. At one evening of dancing, a group of ladies sitting on a bench along one wall were showered with plaster. The exuberance of the dancers had loosened the plaster from one whole wall. The debris was soon cleaned up and the dancing continued. The ladies helped with midnight lunch. I have recollections of our Mother making many loaves of sandwiches from her delicious supply of home-baked bread.

A cousin Frank Leidner from Austria came to visit us in 1929 and stayed on a number of years as part of the Graf family. He built a wooden flat-bottomed boat and all the children spent many hours



The Graf Sisters: Matilda, Ida, Lucy, Fran, Elsie, Anne. 1979.



Harvest on the Hardpan Sept. 1936. Henry Graf operating Header machine.

boating in the big slough just south of the farmyard. In the winter this slough became a busy skating rink for the family and neighbour's children. Needless to say, where you have a large family you also have many visiting friends, so we recall a lot of fun and good times at home.

Our farm was mainly sown to wheat, though a bit of oats and barley was grown to feed the three or four milk cows and several hogs.

Father Graf was a master at smoking and curing hams, bacon and sausages. He was also a master at sharpening plough shares; not only his own, but sometimes the neighbour's.

Times were hard in the late twenties and early thirties, but we always had our lovely home-cured hams, canned chicken, a good garden and managed to trade our mother's tasty homemade butter in exchange for groceries at Vikse Brother's Store.

Dad also worked at mining coal with an old family friend, Nick Fry, during the winter months to help with the income.

After a "crop ruining hailstorm" that came in the night, Dad gave up the old farm and bought a section of grassland eight miles northeast of Donalda that we called "The Hard Pan". This land was all broken up by son Henry with a "steel wheeled tractor" and a three bottom plough.



Getting in the Wood (winter 1929) cousin Frank Leitner, John Graf, Henry Graf, Lucy Graf and Kathrina Graf.

This became home for a few years, until Henry's marriage to Alice Moe in 1941, when they took over this farm. Mom and Dad moved one mile south of Donalda where they built a new house and Dad farmed the quarter of land there.

By this time all the children were married except Elsie who married Lawrence Anonson in 1945. Dad continued to farm with the help of Henry until his death in March 1962. Mother predeceased him in November 1955.

Our only brother Henry died in January 1963.

The old "Home" is now owned by Harry Erickson and no one lives in the house. The "Hard Pan Home" is now owned by Robert Boulter and the "Retirement Home", one mile south of Donalda, is owned by Sid Cram.

All surviving daughters still live in or near Donalda except Matilda Rake who has lived at Revelstoke, British Columbia for many years. She and her husband Albert celebrated their 50th Anniversary April 16, 1978. They have three daughters; Valerie, Donna and Corrine and one son Ronald (deceased); also six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Lucy (Holladay) has six children, all married; Eldon at Lethbridge, Dale at Red Deer, Dianne in Stettler, Lucille in Peace River, Lorne in Edmonton and Judy in Donalda. Lucy also has thirteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Henry has one daughter, Lynda Bykewick, at Edmonton and three grandsons.

Anne (Deans), after her marriage to Frank Deans, lived in England for many years. After his death, she and daughter Janis came back to Canada. Janis is now married and lives in Calgary. Anne bought the house just east of the Donalda schoolyard and lives there.

Ida (Jones) has two children; Randy and Nancy (Paul) one granddaughter and one grandson.

Elsie (Anonson) has five children; Terry at Elkford, British Columbia, Tracy in Picture Butte, David in Lethbridge, Peggy and Ricky at home. She also has four grandchildren.

Chris Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Johnson migrated to Canada from Minot, North Dakota in 1906. They came by wagon from Stettler to the homestead. A house was built, and while living there their son Ernie was killed in a coal mine close to Donalda. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson subsequently moved to Donalda.

After the death of his son Mr. Johnson donated a portion of his homestead for a cemetery, and Ernie was the first to be buried there.

Mr. Johnson passed away in 1923 and was followed a short time later by his wife.

John Kahl

by Alma (Kahl) McGarvie

In the fall of 1905 John Kahl came from Radcliff, Iowa and arrived in Stettler. Jim Baird of Old Red Willow was agent at that time for a land developing company. Jim Baird took John and brother William north of Stettler and John filed on a quarter section to homestead in the Donalda area. William decided on a quarter north of Halkirk. Then they went back to their home in Iowa to assemble their equipment, machinery and horses, oxen and household effects. Their sister gave John a cook book.

In the early spring of 1906 they returned to establish their homesteads. John said "The winter was bitterly cold with heavy snow storms, hay in short supply and many animals died on the prairie," he wondered what he had let himself in for because 1907 was just as bad.



1925 — Bill Lomier, hired girl, John Luers, Cleo Kahl, Arthur Bechet, Bill Yonker, Elsie and John Kahl.

Seven other men came up from Iowa at the same time, one was Gus Hilker senior. Each one had to look after their own stock in box cars on the long trip to Canada. Most of the seven became prominent in the Donalda area as farmers. Accommodation was scarce and they had to sleep in a hay loft once.

Then John arranged to stay with Gene Welch that winter until he hauled his lumber from Lacombe to build his shack. That spring he plowed sod to make his barn and machine shop and this became his home.

After a couple of years alone, Will joined John and together they went into sheep and cattle raising until the first World War.

John became so good at making bread that when there was a big 'do', he was asked to donate home made bread.

In 1908 John bought the two east quarters from the Canadian Pacific Railway joining his homestead. In 1909 he bought from Seymour Gay and Seymour went back to Iowa. He bought eighty acres of range hay land east of John Tucker.

In 1910 the Canadian National Railway came through the middle of the Kahl section. Men started riding the rails and would jump off and come to the shack for a handout. Those were hard times!

Coal was hauled by sleigh in winter from the coulee east of Donalda; it took two days.

In 1910, Elsie Salmon came to Canada from Maxwell, Iowa to visit her Uncle John Carter. He was the district's auctioneer and a bachelor. He lived near Bert and Jesse Jones in the Science Mound district. John met Elsie at Bert Jones' in the fall and they were married January 30, 1912. They raised two daughters, Alma and Cleo and one son, Dee. In 1913 a new five room house was built.

In 1914, brother Will traded his homestead at Halkirk to Jack Rummel for his place which was two miles west and south of John Tuckers. Nine years later he married Lottie Johnson in 1922. Lottie died in August 1948. Uncle Will died December 1958.

Dad played ball for Wessington team between 1906-14 and he also pitched a keen game of horse shoes.

His neighbors were Herb Awe, Al Young, Lum Hubble, John Tucker, Blainey's and Olson. In 1918 the house was enlarged to its present size of ten rooms.

As kids we hitched dogs to sleighs and learned to skate on ponds. We loved to bottle feed the lambs in the spring.

One of Dads true stories of his early days he enjoyed telling was; two cowboys rode up to the shack one night, Leo Olson, six feet six inches tall and Fatty Sears at five feet. Dad fed them and made a bed on the floor. In the middle of the night Leo was sleeping on his back with his knees up. Fatty yelled out "I don't mind sleeping under a tent in the summertime, but I'll be damned if I like it in the winter."

The winters were cold but we slept on feather beds, with home made wool quilts. Mother made all our clothes. We kids didn't mind the thick frost on the windows. We could scratch funny faces and write names. Men and women wore sheep skin and fur coats. We even had a sheep pelt on our privy seat, and a T. Eaton catalogue was our tissue.



John Kahl homestead house of 1906 and new garage of 1921.

During the war Dad went into hog raising and grain growing.

Nels Seale owned a quarter section east of Red Willow, Dad took over the land so Nels could buy a lumber yard in Red Willow.

I (Alma) started school in Donalda under Grace Ennes, with Dorothy and Lula Whitehorn. The following year Cleo started school and we both rode one horse to Poplar Grove School, first under Pearl Bartlett, later under James I. Jones, an English teacher. He believed in the strap and Nola Mae Tucker and I had it layed on our 'sit down' places a couple of times for fighting.

Mosquitoes were so bad Mother wrapped our legs with paper, then pulled on our stockings over top. Those were the years we had to go around all the sloughs.

When the school was consolidated, a horse drawn van was driven from Tuckers corner, and Cleo and I had to walk the two miles to catch the van, driven by Bill Burns, into Donalda. Later we switched to Red Willow school as it was closer. Our teachers were Miss Pocock and Louis Whitehorn.

One fall the passenger train went through and the grass was very dry, and some coal sparks dropped from the engine and started a fire. Mother was sick in bed, and no one was on the farm. When we kids came home from school, we wondered why the fire was burning so close to the house. Mother was alerted and from a rain barrel we were able to put the fire out eight feet from the front porch.

Another time the train ran into a flock of sheep which stopped the passenger train one hour to pull sheep and wool from under the wheels. Yes, that railroad had its drawbacks but once Mother was seriously ill and the snow was too deep to get to a doctor. Dr. Creighton wired the passenger conductor to stop at Kahls crossing to pick up a patient to go to Edmonton. They carried her on a homemade stretcher and she was put in the baggage car. Dad never received a bill from the Canadian National Railway.

In 1925, German immigrants were coming to Canada to work on farms. Dad hired three; Bill Lohmier, John Luers and Bill Yonkers, now all deceased.

Cleo and I were sent to Edmonton to further our education. We then went to work until we both married.

Later on Dee married Beatrice Pearce from Meeting Creek, and then Dee took over the farm to continue its operation as Dad gradually retired. Mother died in August 1948.

From then on Dad made his home for twenty years, spending six months in summer on the farm



Kahls berry picking 1920.

with Dee's family and the six winter months with Alma's family in Vancouver. During the winters we all belonged to a skating club. Dad skated until he was 75 and could cut a perfect figure eight.

Alma and Phil have one daughter, married with three children, and one son, a dentist, married with two children.

Cleo died in September of 1971, leaving two daughters, both married. Hazel has two daughters and two sons. Nadine has one daughter, all in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Dee and Bea have two sons, John and Michael. John is married.

In 1968, due to disability, Dad took up his residence in Heart Haven Home in Stettler, then later in Auxiliary Hospital where he passed away on December 30, 1977. He was grateful he had enjoyed a good life.

Dee Kahl

I have lived in the Donalda area most of my life, taking over my father's farm south of Donalda, after returning from the navy. I became interested in the scouting movement through the late Mr. Laurie Williams, and I started Cubs in Donalda in 1964. I was active in Klondike and in the curling club. I drove a school bus for nineteen years, and adjusted for the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance for twenty years. To the many people in the district who made this possible I want to thank you all.

Bill Robinson

Bill Robinson farmed his homestead until about 1920 when he sold out and moved to Donalda to run the livery stable. He married Anna Goransrud and they had two children; Melvin and Ralph. They moved to Oliver, British Columbia from Donalda.



Billy Robinson with his ten horse breaking plow on the homestead southeast of Donalda. The man by the horses is unidentified.



Making rope on the farm in 1921 — Front row L-R: L. L. Goransrud, son-in-law Bill Robinson and grandson Melvin Robinson. Three men standing not identified.

The W. J. (Billy) Sheppard Story

Billy Sheppard, as he was known to everyone, came to the Donalda area in 1905 from England. He worked around on different farms and threshing outfits in the Red Willow-Donalda area. He also worked with Tom Solomonson, drilling wells. He enjoyed work on fruit and dairy farms in Creston, British Columbia.

He then decided to go farming, so came back to the prairies. He filed on a quarter section of homestead land in the Hemaruka area in 1908 near Youngstown and farmed some adjoining Government land.

In 1916 he took a boat trip back to England. On



Ed Matheson, Billy Sheppard, Mrs. Matheson and Mrs. Sheppard.

his return trip, he met this lady on the boat who was coming to Canada to see her brother who lived in Saskatoon. Her name was Mae Allen. Well, Billy was tired of batching, so in 1917 they were married, and continued farming on the homestead. In 1918 their only son Jack was born.

Farming wasn't easy in this dust bowl part of the province. They often told about severe dust storms and blizzards on the flat prairie. A rope was usually tied from the house to the barn so one would be able to get from one place to another and not get lost in the storms. Grasshoppers blackened the skies and drought always took its toll.

Jack grew up and attended school at Hemaruka. When Billy and his wife decided to move to Donalda, Jack came with them. This was in 1938, when they located on the Billy Robinson quarter south of Wesley Clements. They lived there for three years. Later they rented the Wallace Pickering farm. This was like heaven to live where grass was green and the leaves were not being eaten off the trees.

Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard enjoyed visiting and having card parties with their neighbors — Ekholms, Mathesons etc. Mrs. Sheppard was a member of the Ladies Aid at Science Mound. She was an excellent pianist in her younger years, and enjoyed playing classical selections. She took her turn at playing the organ for church wherever she lived. Later, about 1942 they bought a quarter from Wesley Clement, where Billy enjoyed farming for himself. In later years, he rented his farm out and enjoyed gardening. He raised a lovely garden of potatoes, corn, cucumbers which he sold, along with other things.

Jack was in the army for a few years. When he

was discharged, he returned to this area and worked at the creamery on the truck route. In 1948 he married Edith Lattery, and moved to Edmonton in 1949. He is still in the trucking business and enjoys good health. They have five children.

Billy and his wife moved to Donalda. Previous to this they had had a few trips back to England. Mrs. Sheppard's father was an engineer at sea so he spent a lot of time in India. Mrs. Sheppard was out there for two or three years in her late teens. It was most interesting to have her relate life in India. Her father and mother brought back many lovely pieces of silver from there. She was given a tea-service of solid-silver with figures of jungle animals carved in bas relief on it.

Billy continued with his gardening and Mrs. Sheppard did lovely embroidery, despite the fact she lost the sight of one eye in later years. Of all the wonderful trips taken back to their beautiful homeland, they were always happy to return to their home in Donalda.

Billy passed away in 1964. Mrs. Sheppard also passed away in 1964.

Andy and John Smith

Andy, his wife and John lived on their homesteads for only a few years. They were known by their neighbours as very strong men. John would pick up two one hundred pounds sacks of flour and easily toss them.

John Tucker bought their homesteads. They are all now deceased.

The Tucker Story

Stock raising and horse breeding were of prime interest to John Tucker. He could see that farming and stock raising were closely linked to Alberta's future prosperity and he eventually traded his homestead for three imported Belgian mares. This venture was not as successful as he had hoped as he lost two of the mares the next year. However, he did raise and sell several stallions who sired many good work horses. Old timers will probably remember the favourite, Chief. The family still have many ribbons and medals won by these horses at stock shows in Calgary, Red Deer and Stettler.

When John first came to Alberta he landed in Stettler with his brother Charles, who was unimpressed by the future John could see in Alberta so he soon returned to his home in Oklahoma. Another brother Melvin and their widowed mother Lizzy arrived a short time later. The first Tucker home was a sod shanty, until a home was built on Lizzy's homestead.



"Getting ready for a days work". Joe Tucker — child on horse; John Tucker — holding CHIEF — used Chief for travelling stud. Ben — hired man — holding horses.

In July, 1907 John married Helen Murphy who was teaching school at Poplar Grove. Helen had come to Alberta with her parents Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Murphy in 1906.

John served as a councillor for the Municipal District of Haig, trustee on the Poplar Grove school-board and later on the Donalda school board. We especially remember his work for the Agricultural Society, Fair Chautauqua, also a member of Donalda I.O.O.F.

In 1926 John and Wm. Kahl were the first farmers in the area to buy push binders. In 1925 John and Oscar Olson went to southern Alberta and bought a big steam engine and threshing machine. With a crew of twenty men they threshed for the neighbourhood for many years. One tragic incident happened one year when the engineer Chas. Jones got the sleeve of his jacket caught in a cog wheel and lost the use of his arm.

In 1921 John bought the three-storey Donalda Hotel. John lived there a year and a half, renting the hotel to Mr. and Mrs. Spokely from Edberg. During that time, Dan Parker and family operated the farm. The hotel was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Lett and John returned to the farm.

John was always a good neighbour. When a difficult job needed tending, he was the first to be called. On one such occasion while shearing a sheep for a neighbour, he was kicked in the face. After several expensive operations, he lost one eye. He continued farming. At one time while helping with the threshing, he accidentally stepped into an open auger on the separator and lost a limb. In 1935 when his son Joe was married, John moved to Donalda and Joe operated the farm.

John and Helen had four children. Nola Mai married Clyde Heater and had three children; Louise



Overland Willis Knight — 1918 — owned by John Tucker. In car — John Tucker, Joe, Nola (Heater), Mrs. Helen Tucker — standing. Note Donaldda Festival sign on window.

Zwaenepoll of Edmonton, LeRoy of Mackenzie, British Columbia married Connie Deitrich, and Audrey Maine of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Clyde passed away in 1964. Joseph married Inez Jones and they had four children. Joanne is now Mrs. Don Vallet of Donaldda; Roger married Jean Kilpatrick and lives at Campbell River, British Columbia; Bryan married Judy Paul and resides at Donaldda; and Darryl married Judy Buzic and lives at Lloydminster.

June married Terry Bohaychuk of Edmonton; Terry is now deceased. Jewell married Alfred Winters and now lives in Granum, Alberta.

John passed away in Stettler Hospital in 1950. Helen passed away in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico in 1955.

Melvin married Mabel Sheets and bought the Ole Moore farm north of Donaldda and built the house where Alf Badry now lives. He had three children; Floyd, now living in Vancouver, Lucille (Mrs. Melvin Sjolie) of Camrose and Lorraine of Nanaimo, British Columbia.

Mabel is now Mrs. Goldring of Nanaimo, British Columbia. Melvin died in 1933.

Fred Ullman Story

Fred and Edyth Ullman came to Alberta from Iowa in 1906. Their first home was a sod shanty. They moved one-half mile east and built a small house. In 1918 they moved to Donaldda. Edyth passed away in 1920 and Fred in 1957. Their only daughter Ursa Mae Slack lives in Escondido, California.

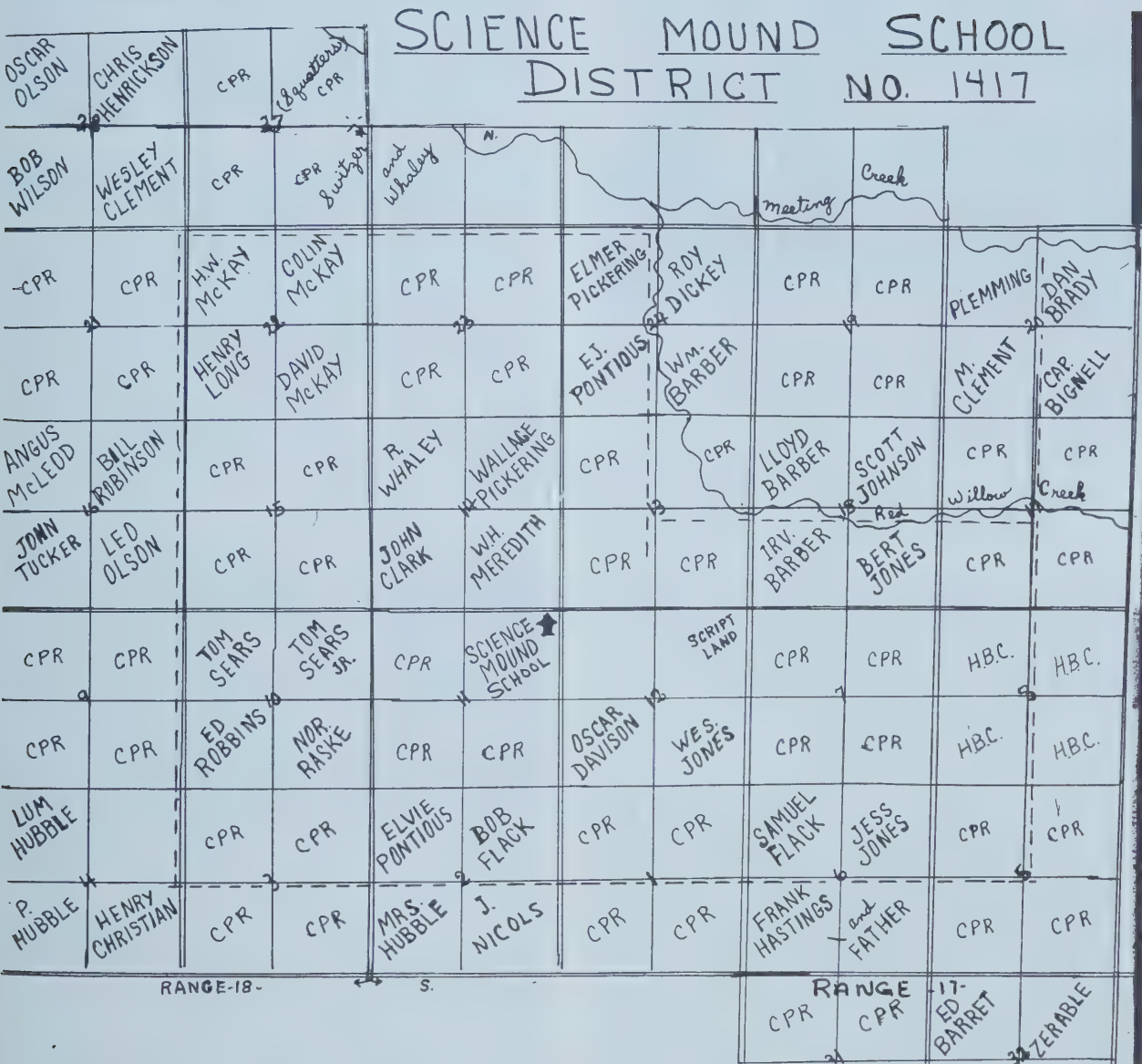
The Wilson Story

Bob and Edith Wilson homesteaded in Alberta in 1905. They lived on the homestead several years. After his wife's death Bob went back to the U.S.A. but returned later and drove the school bus for several years. They had several children; Clint, Minnie, Syble (Mrs. Leo Olson), Otto, Lloyd, Lotus (Mrs. Waddell). To the writers knowledge only Lotus is still living.



Joe and Inez Tucker and their family: Joanne (Mrs. Don Vallet); Darryl; Roger; and Bryan.

Science Mound School District



History of Science Mound School

The meeting at which the Science Mound School district was organized was held at the home of Messrs. Whaley and Switzer. This was the squatter's house on the creek bank.

Present at the meeting in addition to the two men mentioned were: Wallace Pickering, C. L. McKay, D. J. McKay, J. G. Clark, W. H. Meredith, W. A. (Bert) Jones, and E. K. Robbins. The first Board



Science Mound School 1946.

elected was: Norman Switzer, Bert Jones and Robert Whaley with Mr. Whaley acting as Secretary-Treasurer.

The name Science Mound was the one submitted by Mrs. Switzer. She chose it from the name of a small roundish red shale hill on their nearby land in the valley. The hill is no longer called by the name.

The school was built in the early spring of 1906 by Jack Clark and Dave McKay. From that summer onward the school has served the district. It afforded a very important community centre for many years and is still used for gatherings to a lesser extent.

The first church service was conducted in the school in 1906 by Rev. Rob't Clements of the Methodist Church.

The first teacher was Mr. Ward, a student from Ontario who taught during the summer of 1906. His pupils were: Leslie, Eddie and Myrtle Robbins, several Rasche children (the Rasche family did not live long in the district), Cora, Charlie, Ordie and Vernie Jones, Arthur Davison, Elsie and Glen Meredith and Billy Warren (a relative of the Sears Family). Arthur and Ordie were five years old. The second teacher was Mr. George Nichols who retired in Castor. Linda Flack attended also in this second term. Then followed Miss Margaret Johnson who taught until the summer of 1908. She was a niece of Rev. and Mrs. Clements. They had come from the Maritimes. A



Science Mound School 1946. Back row — Gordon Rochon, Robert Nelson, Doris Jones, Billy Olson, Andrew Nelson. Middle row — Delmer Albright, Evelyn Jones, Lionel Kline. Front row — Doris Gilbertson (teacher), Gordon Fischback and Muriel Jones. Missing; Donna Jones and Madelon Smith.

few years later Mr. Quance taught a term. He later distinguished himself with the Faculty of Education at the University of Saskatchewan.

Some of the teachers that taught in Science Mound during its school Days until closing in June 1954 were: Linda Flack, Helen Johnson, Dora Ellis, Elmer Smith, Bill Barnett, Marion Taylor, Vera Hanson, Evelyn Cheeney, Phyllis Ince, Keith Glenn (Supervisor), Enid Sauder, Doris Gilbertson (Henke), Mrs. Carl Mallet, Winnie Stewart, Lillian Paul, Elizabeth Nicklom (Sideritsch) and Kathleen Temple.

The last pupils were: Shelia Jones, Heather Jones, Randall Jones, Calvin Albright, Patricia Konschuh, Karl Sideritsch, Inez Jones, Irene Jones, Valerie Jones, Delmer Albright, Muriel Jones, and Lionel Kline.

The old hand bell is well remembered by anyone who attended a country school. Imagine the embarrassment of a teacher who loudly rang the bell out of an open window and clunked it right onto the head of a small boy running under the window to get back to class. (I'm sure he still carries the scar.)

Powdered ink was the order of the day in the forties. The teacher carefully mixed it with water and stringently dished out a small amount to the older pupils. Thinking to help these pupils miss a writing exercise another young boy cunningly hid the jar of ink under some coal in the coal scuttle. However, the teacher spoiled their fun by finding the ink and writing carried on as usual.

The coal scuttle brings to mind another hilarious moment. Early one chilly May morning the teacher was getting the daily drinking water from the school well. Surprise!! She had hung the coal scuttle on the



Science Mound School, 1951. First row: Calvin Albright; Irene Jones; Karl Sideritsch; Patsy Konschuh; Inez Jones. Second row: LeAnne Paul; Butch Paul; Muriel Jones; Valerie Jones; Gerry Konschuh. Teacher: Mrs. Lillian Paul. Third row: Michael Breznik; Jim Paul; Lionel Kline; Carl Mulhbach; Delmer Albright; Gerald Kromm. Fourth row: Ray Sideritsch; Cecil Christians; Joan Barnes.

pump. However, she did not fill it with water and luckily no doting parent was driving down the road. She really can't blame this mix-up on the kids as wedding bells were to ring in the summer holidays.

Gone are the days the teacher could beat the Grade Nine boys at "Stealing Sticks" in the winter and softball in the summer but these and many more humorous incidents are fond memories of country schooldays.

Science Mound Church and Sunday School

During the early years Church services and Sunday school were held in the Science Mound School building.



Science Mound 1924. Back row L-R: Mrs. Colin McKay; Miss Ruby Pederson; Miss Tona Vlasak; Mrs. Glenn Meredith and Gordon; Mrs. Clarence Haney; Melissa McKay; Annie Bernard. Second row from back: Mrs. John Clement; unknown; unknown; Mrs. Reg. Lyster; unknown; Miss Nancy Creighton; unknown; Mrs. Dave McKay; Mrs. Bill Bernard; Mrs. Homer Albright. Third row from back: Mrs. Hedley McKay with Mysie and Donald; Mrs. Hughson; Mrs. Wallace Pickering with Doreen Albright; Mrs. Otteson; Mrs. Hilbery; Mrs. Walter McIntyre; Mrs. Mark Pickering (child unidentified); Mrs. Simmons. Fourth row from back: Henry Clement; Clarence Pickering; Wallace McKay; Herbert McKay; Voleta Clement; Rev. I. N. Hughson; Emma Hughson; Flack McKay; Helen McKay; Elna Albright; Iona Thibreau; Marjorie McKay.

Colin McKay was secretary-treasurer of the Sunday School in 1914. Bible class was taught by Mrs. Pleming, Young People by Rev. Goddard, Primary by Mrs. Hedley McKay, and infants by Miss Linda Flack. The Superintendent was David J. McKay.

Some of the ministers who came to the country for these services were: Rev. Horricks, Rev. Bosomworth, Rev. Wesley Bainbridge, Rev. J. Bainbridge, Rev. Houston, Rev. Wright, Rev. Rice, Rev. Mather, Rev. Peter Ream, Rev. J. Wylie and Rev. R. Christie. Services continued to be held in the school house or in homes until the late forties.

Science Mound Ladies Aid

On July 26, 1917 seventeen ladies and Rev. and Mrs. Geeson met at the home of Mrs. J. Clark, to reorganize the ladies-aid society. Rev. Geeson out-



Hattie Pickering, Belle Smith, Bertha McKay, Almeda Clement, Emma Hoe (Jones), Ida Thibreau.

lined the aims of ladies aid groups. The ladies sent to the Red Cross for materials, and started sewing, knitting and preparing boxes to send to the soldiers and the needy (these were the war years and Red Cross work came before all else.) The collection taken for lunch at these gatherings was used for postage. They were real workers.

Among these early and willing workers were; Mrs. Stanlake, Mrs. W. Pickering, Mrs. D. McKay, Mrs. O. Haney, Mrs. H. W. McKay, Mrs. C. Haney, Mrs. R. Haney, Mrs. J. Clement, Mrs. W. E. Porter, Mrs. J. Jones, Mrs. Sterns, Mrs. S. Flack, Mrs. Hastings and Mrs. C. McKay.

After the war, money was raised to help with the expenses of the Church and Parsonage. During these years many ice cream socials were held. New members joined the group and were a great help. Some of these ladies were; Mrs. Hubble, Mrs. H. Albright, Mrs. Latimer, Mrs. Hodgson, Mrs. Humphrey, Mrs. G. Meredith and Mrs. J. Thibreau. Later Mrs. Emma Jones, Mrs. Robbins, Mrs. R. T. Smith, Mrs. B.

McBride, Mrs. A. Davison, Mrs. Wigginton and Mrs. J. Large.

In 1931 the ladies held a "Hard Times Supper". They served corn bread, milk, pork and beans and coffee. In 1932 the Science Mound Ladies were awarded the prize for the best kept plot at the cemetery. The prize was a peony root. In 1959 the group changed their name to the Science Mound Non-Denominational Christian Service Group. At this time they decided to take a foster child. Her name was Park Yung Ja. Her family consisted of her mother, grandmother, and two younger sisters. Her father was deceased. The group continued their support until 1962 when she was finished her education and was able to work and support her family.

In 1967 their group celebrated their golden anniversary. At the head table were the honored guests; Mrs. Hedley McKay (1917 secretary-treasurer), Mrs. John Clement (a charter member), Mrs. John Thibeau, Mrs. Robert Smith, Mrs. Emma Hoe (Mrs. Bert Jones), Mrs. Wallace Wigginton, and Mrs. Harry Barnes.

The purpose of this group was to help in any way possible, those needing assistance, regardless of faith and color. The group continued to function until January 1974. At that time they joined the Science Mound Community Club.

Science Mound Community Club

This club was incorporated under the Societies Act on October 18, 1939. The object of this society was to provide recreation for the members and promote a community spirit by holding activities within the community.

Their first effort was obtaining land on which they would build a hall to house some of these activities.

This was done on October 9, 1941, the land location being Pt. N.E. 11-41-18-W4 — 4 acres, purchased from Mr. W. E. Porter.

In 1940 there were 42 members; the first president being Earl Jones, the secretary-treasurer was Cyril Jones. Meetings were first held in various homes in the winter months and at Science Mound School building in the summer.

Families took their turn at having card parties in their homes until the hall was built. This was eventually done with volunteer help from the men of the district.

Poplar poles were laid as a foundation, and the walls, floor and roof were built of shiplap lumber. A kitchen (which also served as a booth when Sports Days were held) was added to the north end of the hall. It was approximately thirty by forty feet in size,

heated by a huge coal and wood range in the kitchen, and a large heater in the main hall.

This structure did not beautify the landscape, but it housed many a fun filled evening in the form of dances, box and pie socials, card parties and chicken suppers. As this was during the war years, many of the dance proceeds went to the Red Cross Organization. It was a lovely time of sharing and caring.

In 1955 when the Science Mound School closed, it became available to our club, and in December 1956 the Science Mound Club became owner of this school building.

Science Mound Telephone Company

In 1915 the Alberta Government Telephone Company built their first lines in the Science Mound district. It was a period of good crops and optimism; new homes and big barns were being built and everyone wanted a new telephone.

In the period between 1915 and 1935 Alberta Government Telephones operated the telephone service in the Science Mound district. As time went on, operating cost rose and farm prices dropped. One by one farmers gave up their phones. In 1935 the telephone company, in poor financial condition, offered to give their lines to the local farmers.

On April 4, 1935 the Science Mound Mutual Telephone Company was formed, with sixteen shareholders including: W. A. Jones, Fred Henke, E. R. Jones, O. Quesseth, Gust Friberg, L. C. Halseth, J. R. Jones, Walter Halseth, W. T. Pickering, H. W. McKay, Conrad Halseth, L. H. Bruce, Wm. Leisinger, Stratton Brothers, Joe Kaufman and W. E. Bentley. This company operated from its incorporation in 1935 as a useful and viable community effort until it ceased operations November 14, 1972.

In 1971, Alberta Government Telephones started to plough in the present underground system. When this work was completed, Science Mound Mutual Telephone Company closed their books.

The Albright Family

Homer E. Albright was born in Iowa, United States and came to Canada in 1912 seeking land. He brought his family to Gadsby in 1914 and from there to a farm in the Byemoor district. The family moved to Donalda in 1917 and bought the John Carter farm in the Science Mound district. Here the family lived until 1941, when Homer and Minnie Albright moved to Rimbey. Erman remained on the farm. Later Homer and his wife moved to Red Willow where they spent their retirement years.



Erman and Margaret Albright's twenty-fifth anniversary.

Erman married Mrs. Margaret Hamilton Olson of Victoria, British Columbia. They lived on the farm at Donalda and raised three sons; Bill Olson of Portland, Oregon. He is Superintendent for Esco Foundry and Electrical Plant. Bill married Winnie Fultz of Duncan, British Columbia, and they have six children. Delmer is an operating engineer for McMillan Bloedell Logging Division of North West Bay. He is married to Vivian McCracken of Camsack, Sas-



Erman, Homer, Doreen, Elna (Albright) Bancroft and Minnie Albright. Children: Delmer Albright and Larry Bancroft.

katchewan. They have two children and live at Qualicum Beach, Vancouver Island. Calvin is a line man for British Columbia Hydro at Terrace, British Columbia. He is married to Vivian's sister Avril and they have three children. Erman and Margaret sold their farm to Everett and Tillie Paul in 1963. They have since resided at Parksville, British Columbia.

Elna married Donald Bancroft and lived for many years at Red Willow. They have two sons. Don passed away and Elna (now Mrs. Ernest Lutz) lives at Stoney Plain.

Doreen married William Hanchar and they have three children. Doreen and Bill live at Parksville, British Columbia.

Homer passed away in 1957 and his wife Minnie in 1961.

Arnold and Phyllis Anderson

The Arnold Anderson family came to the Science Mound District in 1973, having purchased the farm of Earl and Annie Jones. They had lived at Rose Lynn and Rimbey before coming to Donalda. Their four children: Eldon, Myron, Kevin and Irene were born in Hanna Hospital.

Phyllis' father, Richard Hannah, homesteaded one mile east of Hanna in 1909. The United Church held all their services in the Hannah home until the church was built around 1916.

George Anderson

George Anderson was born in Liverpool, England, January 3, 1895. His father had a horse drawn 'cab' business, but they sold it and came to Calgary in 1910. George met his wife Georgia Orton at Rumsey. Georgia was born in South Dakota, and they began farming there.

Over the years George tried his hand successfully at many occupations, including steam engineering at Banff Springs Hotel, and coal mining. In 1926 he bought the farm at Donalda, and lived on S.E. 30-41-17-W4. Five of their six children were born those first years before George farmed at Donalda: Edward George — March 10, 1918; Albert Ray — August 14, 1919; Charles Gordon — February 24, 1921; Stanley Roy — November 5, 1922 and Dorothy Alice May born December 11, 1924. Violet Gertrude was born several years later at Donalda, March 30, 1932.

During hard times, George hauled coal up the valley to Donalda, with team and sleigh. He also worked as a cattle buyer, driving his old '26 Chevrolet (the doors held shut with a hame strap, and a



George Anderson family 1956. L-R Georgia, George and daughters: Violet and Dorothy, sons Stanley and Edward. Front row — Albert and Gordon.

little tank of water fastened to the back of the car for the ever boiling radiator). He was instrumental in organizing the first telephone company in the Spruce Coulee District. They always raised a big garden, and milked several cows to keep food on the table. Georgia picked and preserved wild fruits that grew along the creek banks winding around the farm buildings.

During World War II they worked very hard and built up a big hog business, for those times, having as many as 300 hogs on the place at one time. After the War, Ed and Stan came home, and Ed bought the farm. George bought the land on the south edge of Donaldda from Davisons and moved there. In 1952, George and his wife moved to Calgary to retire. They celebrated their 60th anniversary in 1977.

The older children all took their elementary schooling at Science Mound school, four and a half miles away. They drove horses and buggy, or cutter.

The eldest son Ed was in the tank corps in World War II and was taken prisoner of war in the Dieppe Raid. He was held prisoner until the war ended. He came home and bought the home place but sold it about 1955 and now farms in British Columbia.

Albert, who studied to be a school teacher taught several rural schools before settling to teach in Calgary. He has now retired from teaching and looks after several houses which he rents out.

Gordon has worked many years for the Canadian Pacific Railway and now lives on his farm on the east edge of Calgary.

The youngest son Stanley, took his high school in Donaldda, then enlisted in the army. He fought in Europe from the battle of Normandy to near the end of the war when he was taken prisoner, too. When he returned from overseas he studied Law in Ontario, and has worked there as a lawyer ever since.

Dorothy took a secretarial course in Edmonton, where she met and married a welder, Dave Horbal. They lived in Lloydminster and then moved to Red Deer. Dorothy has a day-care centre in Red Deer at this time.

Violet (Anderson) Adair

I am the youngest, 7 years behind my sister Dorothy. I was born in March 1932 in Ells Whitehorn's house (Mrs. Whitehorn acted as midwife). The house is located kitty-corner from the present school. The doctor was Doctor Jackson.

Until my school years I spent many happy hours splashing in the creek, or rambling alone on the hill sides. Then I started school at Science Mound, riding four and a half miles on my little pony "Roxy". I had to travel alone as the older kids were all through elementary school. Stan and Dorothy were living in Donaldda taking their high-schooling. There were no people living along that last three miles of the road home. All went well until one day that fall, a blizzard came up and delayed my return home. My anxious parents were coming to meet me in the storm. I was delayed because the wise pony refused the short cut on account of the ice and took me the long way around. I never rode to school again. My folks sent me to board in Donaldda for school. Some of the very kind ladies who kept me were; Grandma Pickering, Freda Clement, Dagny Norman, Mrs. Grace Hornady and Connie Westlund. These were good years but sometimes rather lonely living away from home.

The year I was in grade nine, a new boy came to school in grade ten. He was Don Adair, the Spruce Coulee teacher's son. To make a long story short — several years later in 1951 we were married in Sharon Lutheran Church by Pastor L. Sogge.

Don worked for Ray Fitzpatrick for a few years, and then we went to Silver Heights to Don father's farm, returning to Fitzpatricks for another period of time.

Gloria was born while we were at Ray's the first time, and Bruce was born at Hardisty while we were at Silver Heights. During our second time at Fitzpatricks, Glen was born. Then we moved to Godfrey Johnson's farm, north and west of Red Willow and worked there from 1958 to 1962. We bought our own farm at Brownfield and moved there with a small

dairy herd in 1962. We have continued in the dairy business ever since.

Our children are all married now. Gloria married a caterpillar driver, Wayne Bahler, and they moved to Vancouver Island. They have three children. Bruce married a neighbor's girl, Jean Black, and they are farming. They have a boy and a girl. Last summer Glen married another neighbor's girl, Kathy Barnes, and they are working in Red Deer.

Walter Anderson Family

Walter and Gladys Anderson with their five daughters came to the Science Mound District from Stettler in 1933. Their children are: Etta (Mrs. Carl Kline), Geraldine (Mrs. Melvin Anderson), Iona (Mrs. Ronald Hillaby — Ron passed away in 1976), Alice (Mrs. Ken Vosper) and Alma (Mrs. Lage Johnson). In 1936 all the family except Etta, who had married Carl Kline and remained in the Science Mound District, moved to the Mike Dickey farm in the Centennial District. They farmed there until 1944 when they moved to New Norway. Geraldine and Iona stayed in the Donalda District.



Walter and Gladys Anderson Wedding 1915.



The Walter Anderson Daughters: Alma, Alice, Geraldine, Iona and Etta.

Walter passed away in 1975 and Gladys has moved to the Sunset Bethany home.

William Henry (Harry) Barnes

William Henry Barnes was born in Lancashire, England of December 12, 1891. On September 21, 1912 he married Mary Elizabeth Maude Tonks, and to this union ten children were born. He served with the British Army in World War 1, and in 1925 he brought his wife and six children to Canada to settle on a farm in the Donalda-Red Willow district.

It took two weeks by boat and one week on the train. Few people realize the courage it took to leave your homeland and settle so far away. Mary Barnes shed a few tears as she sat on her suitcase and viewed the homestead. The children who came to Canada from England were; Marjorie, Bill, Edna, Norman, Ronald and Stanley.

Harry worked for Clarence Haney, a neighbor, for about two years until he could break up some land to start farming his Soldier Settlement homestead (one quarter section of land). Later he rented Mr. Webster's land which was cleared with an axe and dynamite. It took long hours of work to get his land cleared and under cultivation. He continued to farm until 1960, when they retired and moved to Stettler.

Mr. and Mrs. Barnes celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary on September 21, 1962. They also celebrated their Sixtieth Anniversary with a family gathering at Stettler. Harry's gift to his wife was a beautiful diamond ring. Their children who attended were; Bill Barnes of Lacombe, Edna Souter of Edmonton, Norman of Calgary, Ron of Donalda, Stanley of Stettler, Barbara Newton of Ardrossan,



Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Barnes and family the first fall in Canada 1925. Marjorie, Edna, Ron, Norman, Stanley (baby) and Bill. Displaying their first crop of vegetables.

Alberta (now lives in New Norway), Evelyn Rankin of Edmonton and Joan Podluzny of Edmonton. At this time there were fifty-one grandchildren and forty-two great-grandchildren. Several more great-grandchildren have been born since this time.

Harry and Mary Barnes travelled back to England for the first time in 1967; it was forty-two years



MARRIED 60 YEARS — Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Barnes, 4918 — 45th Street, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a family gathering on September 21st. Their children are: William Barnes, Lacombe; Norman Barnes, Calgary; Ron Barnes, Donalda; Barbara Newton, Ardrossan; Mrs. Evelyn Rankin, Edmonton; Stan Barnes

Stettler and Mrs. Joan Podluzny, Edmonton. There are 51 grandchildren and 42 great-grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes were married in England and came to Canada in 1925 to farm at Donalda and came to Stettler in 1959 when they retired. They are in fair health.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Barnes on their Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary in 1972.

since they had seen their relatives over there. Many tears of joy were shed. Edna and Barbara went along to meet all the relatives. Harry's sister Ethel came over the following year for a visit, and she and her husband Len thought Canada was such a vast country, and many times wished they had immigrated to Canada with Harry.

Harry passed away on March 1, 1975 at the age of eighty-three years, two months and eleven days. Mr. Barnes was predeceased by one son Albert in 1932, and a daughter Marjorie Raddis in 1955. Norman Barnes, second eldest son of this family passed away at Smokey Lake on May 11, 1977 at the age of fifty-seven years.

Mary E. Barnes is in the Stettler Auxiliary Hospital in Stettler, still doing pretty well at the age of eighty-five years.

Angelo Baxter

Angelo and Effie Baxter came to the Donalda district about 1924 or 1925. They worked for Bert Jones in the Science Mound district for two years, and then purchased land a few miles west (now owned by Darryl Clement). Mrs. Baxter was a member of the Science Mound Ladies Aid and the family helped with all community projects. In 1932 Angelo, Effie and their two children, Lorene and Wayne moved to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Angelo and Effie have both passed away.

The Bernard Family

By Doris (Jones) Henke

John and Annie Bernard came to Alberta in the fall of 1920 from Prince Edward Island. They came with their only son Will Bernard and his wife Christie. One of John and Annie's two daughters, Hattie (Mrs. Wallace Pickering) and her husband had come out to homestead in the Science Mound District in



Bill and Christie Bernard and daughter Annie.

1905. John's brother Dan Bernard had also come out to homestead around 1905. John and Annie bought the former Lloyd Barber farm. They planned to retire as they both were on in years. Their son Will farmed the quarter section for them which was one and a half miles east of Science Mound School.

John and Annie had a hard time adjusting to the wide open spaces of Alberta. In 1926 they sold their land to their daughter Hattie and went back to the Island to live out their later years. Mrs. Bernard came back out to make her home with her daughter Hattie after her husband John and her daughter's husband Wallace had both passed away.

Will and Christie Bernard and their daughter Annie Beatrice, settled in the Science Mound district in the fall of 1920. They bought the former Irv Barber homestead from Lou Barber (Lou and Lloyd were Irv's sons), which was directly across the road from the quarter Will's father, John had purchased on which to retire.



John and Annie Bernard Golden Wedding.

Christie's mother, Mrs. Sara Ann Simmons, came out to make her home with them two years later in 1922. Will farmed until the fall of 1931. After taking the crop off, he sold his land back to Lou Barber and returned to Prince Edward Island with his wife and mother-in-law.

Mrs. Christie Bernard is still living and healthy at ninety years of age. She resides at the Summerset Manor in Summerside, Prince Edward Island.

Berndt Family

Gordon and Mary Berndt and Jo-Anne are new residents in the Science Mound district. Gordon started logging on the Friberg land in January of

1978, and his wife and daughter came from Medicine Hat in June of that year. They are presently living in a house on the former Vallet farm. They have three other children, Patrick in Edmonton, and Jeff and Sandra still in Medicine Hat.

Jack Clark

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Clark came to the Science Mound district in 1905, with their Prince Edward Island neighbors Colin and Dave McKay and Wallace Pickering.

Mr. Clark homesteaded S.W. 14-41-18-W4, later selling this land to Wallace Pickering and purchasing the north half of 15-41-18-W4. Here he built a good set of buildings and broke up most of the land. He sold this land to Mr. Pickering, also.

Jack Clark was a carpenter and he built numerous houses throughout the Donalds area. He had the contract to build the Science Mound and Poplar Grove Schools. A number of his buildings are still in use.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark returned to Prince Edward Island around 1923. Mrs. Clark died shortly after returning east. Mr. Clark married again and has one son living on the Island.

John Clement Story

by Mrs. Rae Walker

Spring of 1913 saw John Clement Alberta bound along with his possessions, arriving by railway car. He purchased a half section one mile west of Science Mound School. Meda, his wife and John's sister Jessie and her children arrived in April.

Having come from Nebraska, they thought it strange to strike out across country without seeing a fence line. By 1913, community affairs were beginning to organize and people would drive for miles to attend a Sports Day. The first in the district was held across the road from John Clement's farm.



Mrs. Almeda Clement, 1946.

John enjoyed farming and took a special interest in raising his matched horses. Mrs. Clement was very fond of her flowers and large garden. She and her husband were not sure what would grow "up north", so they planted a garden similar to their gardens in Nebraska. Neighbors thought it a joke that they planted such a variety as onions and corn etc. They were sure they would have a bountiful crop and offered to fill the neighbors sacks that fall, and sure enough, one of these doubting neighbors got a bushel of onions at harvest time.

John and Meda often went hunting for partridge, prairie chicken and rabbits. One day while travelling to visit her sister-in-law, Mollie Clement, Mrs. Clement bagged enough prairie chicken to feed the threshing crew.

By picking wild berries, saskatoons, gooseberries and raspberries and canning meat and vegetables, they always had good provisions the year round. Extra supplies were purchased from Lacombe by horse and wagon.

Henry was born in December of 1914 and Voleta arrived four years later. Thus new additions were added to a small house until a large ten-room home resulted.

Many a Sunday the young people of Science Mound would go tobogganning in the coulee and end up at the home for a hot supper, roll up the rug and dance to gramophone music.

The year Rae was born (1923) the Clements had a bountiful crop. It was also the year they purchased the first radio in the district. This was hand made with a huge horn separate from the set and was made by Mr. Murphy of Murphy's store.

Meda Clement enjoyed her hobbies; making rugs, quilts, knitting, crocheting and painting etc. and was always ready to offer help in emergency or

sickness. She worked hard for the United Church, Ladies Aid and Cemetery Club.

When John passed away at sixty-four years, Mrs. Clement and Henry carried on the farm until 1953, when she retired to the town of Stettler. She passed away in 1972 at the age of ninety.

Henry and wife Margaret reside in Stettler, having worked at the Stettler Auction Mart for some twenty years.

Voleta married "Bob" Douglas and lives in Edmonton where their sons Brian and wife Janice, and Donald and wife Kim reside. They are the proud grandparents of Greg and Kyle, children of Don.

Rae now resides in Ponoka with her husband Albert Walker. They have worked at Government Institutions in Red Deer and Ponoka since 1961.

They also are enjoying grandchildren; Kerry and Meghan, children of Dale and Margaret Walker, and Christa, daughter of Brenda (Walker) Smith and her husband Doug.

Maureen Walker, youngest daughter of Albert and Rae resides in Red Deer.

Robert Crawford

Robert (Shorty) Crawford was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1885. Little is known of his early life or when he came to Canada, as he did not talk very much about the past. Shorty did tell of filing on a homestead in the Pouce Coupe area, around 1912. Determined to make a go of farming, he walked into the bush to his homestead in the early fall, and stuck it out until spring. By this time he had had enough, so he walked back out to civilization without a backward glance or single regret.



Almeda and Henry in first car. John Clement starting car.



Robert (Shorty) Crawford.

The next few years were spent working with a railway building crew in the Peace River Country. Shorty was the cook, and as good water was hard to obtain he kept plenty of tea on hand at all times, so the crew would not know how brown the swamp water was, that they were drinking.

Robert Crawford came to Donaldda in 1918 and lived with the Samuel Flack family for the next forty-six years. In 1964, he sold his land and moved into Donaldda. He was an ardent sports fan and his interest in curling, hockey, football and the horses never waned. Robert passed away in November 1973.

Cressman

Larry and Linda Cressman and their children Jamie and Wendy moved from Gadsby in the spring of 1978 to the farm they bought from Eugene and Clayton Vallet.

William August Christians Family

William August Christians came to Ponoka from South Dakota in 1903 at the age of seven years, along with his parents Henry and Anna, four brothers; Henry, Hans, Fred and John and one sister, Martha.

The family lived near the site of the present Alberta Hospital for one year while the father, Henry Jr. and Hans came to the homestead situated on the N.E. ¼ of 27-40-18. They built a house out of lumber from trees from the Willow Creek.



Bill and Elsie Christians, 1923.

On March 12, 1904 the family, with all their belongings drove out from Ponoka which took two days. They spent one night at a farm near the present town of Bashaw. Along the way they drove through a prairie fire sustaining no ill effects. A few days after arriving at the homestead, the same prairie fire caught up with them, burning all grass and vegetation, leaving no feed for the horses. Everything was black for two weeks until the emergence of new green grass illustrating nature in all its splendour.

In 1906 the Star Ridge School was built where

Bill got his education. In 1919 he bought the Perry Hubble Farm (S.W. ¼ of 4-41-18) where he lived and farmed until his passing in November of 1978.



William Christians Family. Seated: William and Tina. Standing: Karl, Marlene, Carol, Layne and Trudy.

In 1923 he married Elsa Wegmüller who had just recently arrived from Switzerland. They had two children. Violetta (Mrs. Don Graham) resides in Sherwood Park; her husband being with the R.C.M.P. William Jr. and wife Tina (nee Sperling formerly of Provost) bought the Wallace Pickering homestead from Cyril Jones in 1959. Here they raised five children; Carol, Trudy, Karl, Marlene and Layne.

Carol and husband Jack Kerychuk reside in Edmonton where she is employed by Imperial Oil Ltd. Trudy with husband Ron Steinhoff and daughter Charis, live on the farm of her parents. Karl now resides on the Grandpa Christians farm with wife Laura Lynn (Nee Westergard) and two children, Robert and Angela. Marlene is a student at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, in her third year of Business Administration. Layne is a student at the Wm. E. Hay Composite High School in Stettler and lives at home.

Oscar Davison Family

Oscar Davison, his wife and three children came to the Science Mound District in 1904 where he took out a homestead. In 1908 he sold his homestead and purchased other land now owned by Fred Henke. He shipped in a Steam Engine and broke land for many a homesteader.

Oscar came from Fort Worth, Texas and was truly an "Old Cow Hand". He must have been of a versatile nature as he not only broke land extensively but freighted groceries and goods from Lacombe to



The Arthur Davison family: Joyce, Winston, Cyril, June, Dorothy, Margaret and Arthur.



Oscar Davison family: 50th anniversary: Opal, Arthur, Gladys, Nellie, Oscar, Isa and Ferne.

the store in Red Willow, then owned by E. H. Prudden. In 1906 a prairie fire destroyed all their grain but fire guards saved the buildings.

The oldest daughter Minnie died of scarlet fever in 1904 and her body was buried on the farm and was later moved to the Red Willow Cemetery. Arthur died in 1974, Opal lives at High Prairie; Gladys lives at Colorado Springs, Colorado; Nellie lives at Dalhart, Texas; and Fern lives at Oliver, British Columbia.

Oscar had a sale in 1929 and returned to Texas, renting his farm to his son Arthur. They decided to return to Donalda so bought a truck and trucked grain for the farmers in the fall, and hauled fruit from Creston, British Columbia in summer.

Oscar and his wife celebrated their Golden Wedding in April 1950 and retired to Oliver, British Columbia where they have been laid to rest.

The Fischbach Family

by Emil Fischbach

Herman, my younger brother, settled in the Sci-

ence Mound district (one half mile south of the school) in 1937 with our mother, two sisters, Violet and Meta and one brother Norman. He farmed there until 1940, and then in 1941 I took over the farm and farmed the same place until 1948. Mother moved to Donalda in 1941 to retire.

Freida married B. L. Tweit and they lived in Stettler.

Herman, now retired lives at Empress. Ed married Alice Anderson and farms at Oyen, Alberta. Violet married Bev Lenard and they live in Calgary. Emil married Evelyn Hangs and they had four children, Gordon, James, Elaine, and Dorothy. Gordon married Arlie Scatchard and lives in Stettler. They have three children, Murray, Mark and Tanya.

James married Jackie Heck and are now living in Camrose. They have three boys, Brent, Bryan, and Dean.



Fischbach Family: Gordon, Elaine, Dorothy, Jim, Evelyn and Emil.

Elaine married Jake Dockter and lives at Didsbury with two children, Dorren and Ila.

Dorothy married Norman Loughlean (Bashaw) and has two children, Michael and Corrine.

After leaving Science Mound we purchased a farm a half mile west of Donalda which I farmed for two years. After that I was employed with Donalda Hardware from 1951 to 1965. Then we moved to Morrin where I operated a Red and White store from 1965 to 1975. We moved back to Donalda for our retirement where we still reside.

Elaine Dockter (Fischbach)

I was born in the Stettler General Hospital on July 4, 1942, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Fischbach. My folks lived on a farm in the Science Mound District at that time. Mrs. Doris Henke was my first teacher.

In the spring of 1949, we moved to a farm one-half mile north-east of Donalda. Miss Margaret Lawson was my new teacher. I remember in 1951, I received a medal for being the best student in grades one, two and three. I still have that medal. It reads D.C.S. '51 and it has my initials on the reverse side. I am very proud to have it.

I attended Sunday School at Sharon Lutheran Church in Donalda and I was given confirmation instruction by Pastor Rude and confirmed on November 25, 1956. For a short time after that I taught Sunday School. Today we are members at Redeemer Lutheran in Didsbury.

I completed Grade 11 at Donalda. I then attended Red Deer Composite High School. After graduation, I took a job at Acme Lockers in Acme. One year later, I returned to Donalda where I was employed with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce for two years. Mr. Scatchard was Branch manager then.

I worked for the Commerce in Medicine Hat for three and one half years. During this time I met and married Jacob (Jake) Dockter in 1964. On August 17, 1965, we had a son, Darren Wade. Our daughter was born on January 11, 1968. Her name is Ila Berdine.

In May 1968 we purchased a Red & White Store in Big Valley. We operated this business for nearly five years.

Prior to our settling in Didsbury, we lived in Lethbridge for one year and in Drumheller for four years. Jake now has his own Upholstery Business and I am employed with the Treasury Branch.

Through the years of life and experience, I have come to realize how important it is to be yourself. Beauty and wealth are not nearly as important as health and happiness and having someone you love to share it with.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Mrs. Dorothy (Fischbach) Loughlean

Dorothy, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Fischbach, who are, and have been residents of Donalda and district for years.

I was born on July 8, 1945, in the Stettler Municipal hospital. I took my education in Donalda, finishing in Stettler High School, taking part in most sports, but with Basketball being of special interest.

In 1963 after completing my schooling I became a Bank Clerk in Morrin, Alberta, at the Bank of Montreal and in 1971, I started at the Royal Bank in Bashaw, Alberta, where I worked until 1976.

In 1964 I married a Bashaw district farmer, Norman Loughlean. We have two children, Michael A.

born in 1965 and Corrine D. born in 1968.

Michael and Corrine take strong interest in our Registered Quarter Horses and Registered Angus Cattle. They're kept very busy with their cattle and shows, Bashaw being the home of the "National Junior Angus Heifer Show", which is quite an achievement for this area.

Norman is also a realtor for Bashaw Agencies.

James Willard Fischbach

Younger son of the Emil Fischbach Family

I was born in Stettler hospital on May 6, 1944. For the first few years of my life I lived on a farm half a mile south of the Science Mound School. At the age of five I moved to a farm half a mile north west of Donalda with my father Emil, my mother Evelyn, one brother Gordon and two sisters, Elaine and Dorothy; this was home for me for the next twelve years. Those were twelve adventurous years for me; there was lots of exploring to be done in this densely wooded farm with its sloughs and brush. It was here that many a weasel was trapped, muskrats were shot and the pelts were sold for spending money. For our winter entertainment we would shovel the snow off the slough and use it for a skating rink.

There was, however, not always time for play since we had our daily chores which included milking of cows, feeding the pigs, and chickens. Cutting and hauling wood for the fire because for the first few years we didn't have power so coal and wood stoves were used, kerosene lamps provided us with light.

I received my education at Donalda School; I also attended Sunday School and was confirmed in the Sharon Lutheran Church. During my school days I participated in all sports, baseball was one of my favorites and in 1958 I was fortunate enough to be one of the two Donalda players picked to represent the County of Stettler Team. We travelled throughout the Province challenging other teams, and we won the Provincials for that year.

In the summer of 1963 I decided to go out in the world and earn my own living. I started working for Canadian National Railways throughout Southern Alberta. In my travels I met Jackie Heck; we were married in Grace Lutheran Church in Brooks, Alberta in 1965.

In that same year Jackie and I moved to Morrin, Alberta where I worked with my father for five years in his store, the Morrin Red and White Store. During this time our first two sons were born in the Drumheller hospital. Brent Allen on February 22, 1966 and Bryan Warren on July 20, 1968.

In September of 1970 I moved back to Donalda

with my wife and two sons, where we purchased the Donalda Red and White Store from Don and Beth Lawson.

Brent started school in 1972 and Bryan in 1974, both the boys attended the same school and Sunday School as their father had. The boys took part in all school and church activities, they also attended cubs.

During those busy times for us I served on the Village Council, and was a curling enthusiast. Jackie was a member of the Donalda Guild, treasurer for the cubs for one year and secretary for the Donalda and Community Council for one year.

On March 19, 1974 a third son Dean James was born in Red Deer Hospital, even though only three and a half of his years were spent in Donalda before moving to Camrose, busy were his days being Grandpa and Grandma Fischbachs' little helper.

In January of 1978 we sold the store and moved to Camrose where I am now employed by Nyback and Lien Auto Clinic and my wife Jackie is employed at Alberta Grocers Cash and Carry Wholesale.

Gordon Fischbach

Eldest son of Emil Fischbach Family

I attended the Donalda school and completed grade eleven there. The following year, 1958 and 1959, I graduated from Lindsey Thurber Composite High School at Red Deer and then attended the University of Calgary receiving my Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Education degrees.

Upon spring graduation from University of Alberta in 1965 I married Arlie, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Geof. Scatchard who presently are retired and residing at Chase, British Columbia. We have two sons Murray thirteen, Mark eleven, and a daughter Tanya age three. We are presently residing in Stettler where I am employed by the County of Stettler No. 6 as Vice-Principal at Waverly School.

I have many fond memories about my boyhood days at Donalda. For example, I shall never forget my grade two teacher, Miss Lawson, who seemingly had an infinite amount of patience. Nor will I ever forget those ten some odd years that we kids walked two miles to school every day — I might add it never hurt us one bit.

I shall always cherish those days playing baseball with the juvenile team coached by Mr. Joe Tucker and also playing senior baseball with the Donalda Pilsners. In those days baseball was "the game". Every town had a team and every weekend all summer long, there was a baseball tournament somewhere — perhaps Heisler, Forestburg, Kelsey, Rosalind, Ohaton or Bawlf.

Then of course the fondest memory of all, Donalda is the place where I first met and dated my wife, the bank manager's daughter.

The Samuel Flack Family

In 1897 the Samuel Flack family of Creemore, Ontario, consisting of Mrs. Flack (Margaret), Ethel, Nellie, Mabel, Robert, Lula, and Linda, settled on a farm that has long since become part of the City of Red Deer.

Mr. Flack who was a graduate of Guelph Agricultural College, (with training as a cheese and butter maker) was brought to Red Deer to run a creamery for the North West Territories Government. Mr. Flack at this same time, brought from Ontario a herd of holstein cows which provided breeding stock for a number of herds in central Alberta.



Lulu and Linda Flack.

The Flack family sold their Red Deer farm in 1904, and moved to the Waterglen district of Ponoka, north of the present Mecca Glen School.

In 1906 the family moved to the Science Mound district and set up a permanent home on the S.W. quarter of 1-41-18-w4. Bob Flack homesteaded the N.E. 2-41-18-w4. For many years the Flack homestead was a happy meeting place for neighbors and friends, and strangers were always welcome.

Ethel Flack married Colin McKay in 1911 and moved to his homestead, just five miles away. Here four children were born; Melissa (Mrs. Stephen Wright) of Rimbey. Melissa taught school for years in central and northern Alberta. Marjorie (Mrs. Benjamin Waterman) of Devon. Ben teaches at the Devon School. They have two sons and one daughter. Lisle and his wife Roseanne live in Calgary, Kenneth and his wife Theresa live at Fort McMurray, and Thelma lives in Edmonton. Flack married Marie James of Toronto and lives on the home place. Their son Bryan and his wife Debra live in Edmonton. Helen (Mrs. Folke Holmquist) lives in Stettler.

Nellie Flack taught in a number of Alberta Schools. She died suddenly while attending summer school in Calgary in 1923.



Flack Family. Standing: Linda, Samuel, Mabel, Nellie, Robert. Sitting: Lulu, Ethel (Flack) McKay, holding son Flack, Margaret. On ground: Melissa and Marjorie McKay.

Mabel Flack was best known for her cooking. She always had an extra plate on the table. She passed away at home in 1932.

Robert (Bob) Flack farmed for many years on the old home place. Bob never complained about hard times. He always had a happy optimistic outlook. He liked all people, and he especially loved all children, whom he believed could do no wrong. Robert Flack passed away in 1965.

Lula Flack taught school until 1924. At that time she married Fred Pickup of the Prairie Grove district. After farming for a number of years they moved with their family; Phyllis, Milligent, Mavis and Jack to Chilliwack, British Columbia. Fred Pickup died at Chilliwack, and Phyllis was killed in a car accident. Lula passed away recently in Vancouver.

Linda Flack taught school for many years, several of these at Star Ridge. Her many former pupils remember her happy good nature and unselfish dedication to all. Linda passed away in 1941.

Samuel Flack died in 1924 and Margaret Flack in 1931.

Helmuth Gebhardt

Helmuth was the only son of Jacob and Matilda Gebhardt. He has five sisters. They were raised in the Castor district.

In 1955, Helmuth married Emma Disterheft of Forestburg, who was then employed in the Galahad Hospital.

In 1961, Helmuth and Emma purchased the H. Barnes farm nine miles southeast of Donalda and moved there with their family of one daughter Linda and sons Carl and Andy. The following year Timothy arrived.

In 1966, Helmuth bought and tore down the old Murphy building just east across the alley from Clement and Son Hardware. During the process, he miraculously escaped being crushed by a section of the building roof that collapsed. Out of this building one antique shoe was found and given to Donalda's Museum. The lumber from this building was used to build granaries and a barn on his farm.

In 1967-68 the Gebhardts built a new home on their farm and the following year tore down the old home of the Barnes family.

By the year 1979, three members of the family were on their own and Timothy, the only child at home was in his last year of high school.

The summer of 1979, their only daughter Linda, married Douglas Lavoie of Camrose. Linda continues to work in Camrose Credit Union. Carl works as a mechanic in Stettler and Andy works with a survey crew in Central Alberta.

Earl Heisz

Earl came to Donalda in 1925. In 1928 he married Hilda Chambers who clerked in Patterson's



Earl, Eileen, Gerald and Hilda Heisz.



Earl and Hilda Heisz Golden Wedding Anniversary. Hilda is wearing her original wedding dress.

Store in Donalda. They farmed south and east of Donalda until 1967 when they retired and moved to Forestburg. To this union two children were born, Eileen, now Mrs. Vincent Norman of Malakwa, British Columbia, and Gerald who married Ruth Dietrich and now is assistant foreman for the town of Forestburg.

Earl and Hilda celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on March 7, 1978.

John Adam Heisz

John came to Canada from Kansas in 1925. He lived in Donalda until 1935 when he moved to Enilda, Alberta where he passed away in 1948. He had five sons; William, Roy, Edward (deceased), Arthur and Earl. His wife passed away many years ago. Earl now lives in Forestburg.

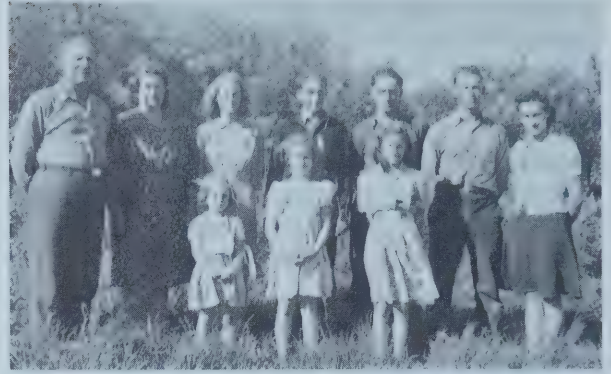


John Heisz family: John, Bill, Roy, Edward, Arthur, and Earl.

Roy Heisz Family

Roy came to the Science Mound district in 1916, working for his uncle on the farm now owned by Carl Kline.

Roy was a great sportsman and holds a lovely



Roy Heisz family, 1946: L. to R. Roy, Opal, Ida, Lyle, Leo, Paul, Ina, Frt. Row: Irene, Iona and Ila.

silver cup for being Top Senior (Field and Track) Star three years in a row. He received this cup in 1920 which was donated by the Red Willow Methodist Mission.

In 1922 he married Opal Davison and moved to the farm in the Poplar Grove District. In the thirties he took up coal mining and still continued to farm. Roy mined in the hills below Donalda, then moved to the bigger seams of coal on the river banks east of Melvin Andersons and called his mine "Northern Lite Coal". He sold his farm at Donalda in 1950 and followed his sons to the north country at High Prairie where he farmed and trucked. Roy was killed in a baler accident in August, 1960. His wife Opal still lives in High Prairie enjoying herself at crocheting bedspreads for all the family — as well as travelling a great deal.

Their children are: Ina (Damberger), bank clerk at Donalda; Paul who is trucking in Vancouver; Leo, a trapper at Watson Lake; Lyle, a retired chicken farmer now at Sardis, British Columbia; Ida (Brown) who is an institute aide at Red Deer; Ila (Sawchyn), a computer operator for the High Prairie School Division; Iona, (Kushner) a teacher's helper at the High Prairie school and Irene (Walker) who lives at Merritt, British Columbia, and is involved in Girl Guides.

Fred August Henke

by Doris L. Henke

Fred and Emma (nee Moeller) Henke came from Wagenfeld, Germany and arrived in Canada on De-



Henke Family. Fred, unknown, Emma with Freddie, Albert and Heinz.

cember 22, 1925. They came by boat via London, England to Halifax and from there by train to the Red Willow district. Fred, Emma and their two young sons, Albert and Heinz, lived at and worked for the Henry Christians Sr. family. They bought their first half section of land from Earl Porter in 1929. The home place being one mile south and a half mile east of the Science Mound school. They took Mr. Porter's cattle on a share basis when they bought the farm, thus getting a start in cattle. In the spring of 1944 they bought and moved to the Arthur Davison farm (one



Heinz, Fred and Albert Henke.

quarter mile east of Science Mound School) and continued farming there until Fred passed away in 1966. Emma resided there until three years before her death in 1976. Their third son Fred Jr. was born at Red Willow and he is farming the home place now.

Their son Albert married Agnes Wattland. Albert and Agnes have six children; Keith who lives in Edmonton with his wife Cheryl and two sons; Lorna (Mrs. Uschanko) of Stettler who has two children, a daughter and a son; Betty (Mrs. Wally Tillapaugh) of Edmonton has a daughter and a son; Donald of Edmonton; June (Mrs. George (Shorty) Elliott) of Calgary has three children; and Robert of Stettler.

Heinz married Doris Gilbertson of Oyen, who taught school at Science Mound. They have two children; Keray, who lives in Edmonton with his wife Linda and young son Aaron; and Kay of Lethbridge.

Fred married the former Doris Jones. They have two children. Shirley (Mrs. Richard Burk) of Camrose who has two sons; and Warren who lives on the family farm with his wife Bonnie.

The Homesteader

Some homesteaders and People who lived in Science Mound are mentioned in community books but there is no record of where they moved to, or what became of their families.

Some of these names are:

Scot Johnson who homesteaded N.E. 18-41-17-W4.

The O. Haney family.

Roy Haney family.

Clarence Haney family.

The Plemens family who homesteaded and were active in the Science Mound Church and Sunday School.

Frank Hastings who homesteaded S.W. 6-41-17-W4.

Brown family.

Carl Blatzer who homesteaded S.W. 16-41-17-W4.

Fred Sheets family.

Mrs. Hubbel

Mrs. Hubbel was a widow well past middle age when she came to Alberta from the United States with her sons to start a new life. There were homesteads registered in the names of Lum and P. Hubbel. Mrs. Hubbel homesteaded S.W. 1/4-4-41-18-w4. Little is known of the family since they left the area.

Bert Jones Family

Mr. W. A. Jones (Bert) was born in Kansas, U.S.A. He came to Canada with his brother Jesse and



Bert and Emma Jones, 1928.

brother-in-law Irv Barber. In June of 1902 the three filed on homesteads in the Science Mound district and in August of the same year arrived in Lacombe with their settler's effects. It took a week to freight the effects by team to the homestead. Their nearest trading points were Lacombe and Ferry Point.

Bert and his wife Mary had four children; Vernie, Ordie, Charlie and Cora, who were among the first pupils at Science Mound. Bert farmed for many years on the original homestead. In the twenties he had a large barn and house and farmed with a lot of horses.

In 1926 he married Emma Kline. In the thirties Bert would use the Graham Page truck to take the Science Mound children to play ball at the other school districts such as Willow Park, Star Ridge and Prairie Grove. In the winter when the roads had too much snow for the car, they would take the driving team and cutter, go to Stettler one day and come back the next. At the picnics in the summer, Bert, who



Bert Jones, the Father, Jesse Jones.

always liked children, would treat them to ice-cream cones.

Bert lived at the homestead till his passing in 1937. Emma remained on the farm with her son Carl and daughter-in-law Etta until 1944 when she moved to Stettler. Emma is now residing in the Stettler Nursing Home.

John Conrad Jones Family

Connie, as he was known to his family, friend and neighbors, came from California with his wife Eva Eliza and five sons to settle in the Science Mound district in 1913. He had made a trip to Alberta in 1911 or 1912 to visit his brothers Jesse, Bert and Wes and his sister Mrs. Irv Barber and their families. They had all come earlier to homestead.

Their father, John Lewis Jones had come to Alberta at the beginning of the Civil War to avoid going into combat. He later went back and served in the Union Army. After the war he'd often talk of the unusual beauty of Alberta, central Alberta particularly, which he favoured. This sparked an interest in those of his sons and family who later homesteaded here.



Eva and Conrad Jones on their wedding day.

Earl, Chester, George, Cliff and Elmer came to the homestead with their parents. Harvey, Fay, and Edith were born in Alberta.

Earl married the former Annie Bernard. He lived



The Conrad Jones boys picking over saskatoons — Chester, George, Elmer and Cliff.

and farmed just one quarter mile from his father's homestead from 1931 until his retirement to Stettler in 1973. He passed away in 1978 (the family history appears elsewhere in this book).

Chester passed away in the fall of 1934 at twenty-seven years of age of typhoid fever.

George is residing in Calgary and is in the construction business. He married Rose Hussy of Calgary. Their son, Franklin, resides in Kelowna, British Columbia.

Elmer, farmed the homestead of his father until 1942, then farmed at Red Willow for a number of years before moving to Calgary where he now resides. He is in the construction business also. He married Helen Strader of Halkirk and to this union eight children were born: Clarice (Mrs. Ted Cardinal) of Edmonton; Allen of Calgary; William of Calgary, Elaine (Mrs. Alfons Sehuk) of Calgary; Linda (Mrs. Gary Pixley) of Calgary; Donald of Calgary; Milvin of Calgary and Lori Susan (Mrs. Carl Brooks) of Calgary.

Cliff farmed in the Westwoods district near Gadsby for a number of years before selling and moving to Calgary. He married Beulah Coleman of Gadsby and five children were born to them: Richard, who passed away at the age of eighteen years in 1962 due to a car accident; Larry of Red Willow; Brian of Prince George, British Columbia, Barbara (Mrs. Douglas Oakes) of Calgary and Jean of Calgary. Cliff passed away in 1969. His wife Beulah still resides in Calgary.

Harvey and his wife Dorothy, after leaving Calgary resided and worked in the U.S.A. residing for

twenty years in Seattle, Washington, later in Santa Clara, California and his last years in San Jose, California. They have one son, Leslie of California. Harvey passed away in 1969.

Fay (Mrs. Benjamin Raddis) resides in Edmonton. Their son Gerald is married and living in Edmonton. Their daughter Rose Marie (Mrs. Dick Garrett) also resides in Edmonton. Fay's husband Ben passed away in 1973.

Edith (Mrs. Raymond McBride) passed away at Canmore, Alberta in 1952 during the polio epidemic. They have three children: Howard, Merle (Mrs. Bill Hewlett) of Quesnel, B.C. and Leona (Mrs. Coleman) also of Quesnel. Raymond still resides at Canmore.

Earl Jones Family

by (Doris Henke) Jones

Earl married Annie Bernard at the beginning of the depression. Prior to their marriage, Earl rented his farm from Lou Barber, later buying it. During the winter months after buying his farm, Earl worked in the local coal mines. This helped to pay for his land as well as support his family during the thirties. He worked the first few winters in the Wilkinson Mines and the later years with the Muncy Mines near Forestburg. The last two winters, Earl, Annie and their two young daughters, Doris and Evelyn, moved into one of the "bunk" houses. They spent the winters at the mine and moved back to the farm each spring. Earl spent his last winter of mining in 1936-37, moved back to the farm that spring and lived there until retiring to Stettler in 1973 after selling his farm and machinery.

Earl and Annie had seven daughters. Doris (Mrs. Fred Henke) of Donalda has two children; Shirley (Mrs. Richard Burk) of Camrose and Warren (married to Bonnie Stewart of Erskine). Evelyn (Mrs.



Earl Jones Family. Back row: Doris (Henke), Annie, Earl, Evelyn (Smith). Front row: Inez (Cloutier), Muriel (Holladay), Heather (Lang) Irene (Streberg).

Norman Smith) of Calgary has two daughters; Debbie Hargreaves of Calgary and Eva-Leah (Mrs. Greg Bondar) also of Calgary. Muriel (Mrs. Dale Holladay) of Red Deer has two children; Corrine and Bob. Twin daughters came next; Inez and Irene. Inez and her husband Andy Cloutier live at Lafayette, New Jersey, U.S.A. and have three children; Teresa, Paul, Micheal, Irene (Mrs. Dennis Streberg) lives at Killam, Alberta and they have two daughters; Susan and Shauna. Heather (Mrs. Deral Lang) of Gadsby, Alberta has two daughters; Paula and Shelia. Ethel May, Earl and Annie's third born child, died in infancy in May of 1935.

Earl passed away in March of 1978. Annie is residing in Stettler.

The Jesse Jones Story

by Inez Tucker

Jesse Jones, born in 1875 at Woodstock, Wisconsin, came to this district in 1902. The same year his wife, the former Minnie Pickering arrived. They were among the first homesteaders.



Jesse and Minnie Jones Wedding 1904.

"I arrived by train accompanied by my sister and family, the Irv Barbers. I had brought with me, five head of horses, a top buggy, a cutter and a wagon. With this equipment and a small amount of cash, I settled on my homestead on Willow Creek and began the task of building it into a farm.

By the summer of 1904 I had built a log house from logs cut on my own farm, and broken another thirty acres of land. With this start, I had the courage to venture into matrimony.

I hitched one horse to the top buggy (a rubber tired buggy) and drove with Miss Minnie Pickering to Wetaskiwin where we were married. We came to friends by the name of Mead, who lived eleven miles from Wetaskiwin, stayed there overnight, continuing our honeymoon back to the homestead in the morning. The roads at this time were all prairie trails, but they were well rutted and easy to follow. Walter McIntyre, (my bride's brother-in-law) had driven to Wetaskiwin the previous day with a team and wagon to bring home any furniture we might buy. Incidentally, our wedding pictures were taken at Chris Langbell Studio in Wetaskiwin. Fifty years later in 1954, the same studio took our Golden Wedding pictures in Camrose.



Jesse and Minnie Jones' 60th Wedding Anniversary, 1964.

Many amusing incidents happened. I can recall when two of us were bringing supplies from Lacombe. Just west of Lacombe we had to go through a mudhole in the trail. The doubletree broke on the other wagon, and the driver was pulled out into the mud, leaving most of the seat of his pants behind. When we stopped for lunch a short way from there at a farm house, he borrowed a needle and thread and spent most of the lunch hour patching his trousers.

In 1905, our first son, Arthur, was born. No doctor had dared venture into this wild land, but Great Grandmother Pickering was on hand. Three



Floyd and Ida Jones' Twenty-fifth Anniversary, 1964.

more children blessed our union — Cyril, Inez, and Floyd. All four children were born in our home.

In 1936, after a period away from the homestead, we came back again, and continued to live on the farm until we retired to live in Donalda in 1940. Since that time the farm has been operated by our youngest son, Floyd.

Now, at the age of 87, I can look back and know this has been a full and happy life.”
(as told by Jesse Jones to his daughter Inez Tucker and written by her in 1963)

Second Generation by Ida Jones

Our father, Jesse Jones, passed away in January 1965, and our mother, Minnie Jones, passed away in November, 1975. They were both in their 89th year at the time of their passing. They lived a full happy married life, having celebrated both their 50th and 60th wedding anniversaries.

Their eldest son Arthur and his wife Fran have lived in Peterborough, Ontario since 1933. Arthur is an electrical engineer, now retired, but still called upon by his company (General Electric) on various jobs to solve trouble spots, one being at our plant near Forestburg, as recently as November, 1978.

Cyril and Evelyn sold their farm (now occupied by Willie Christians) in 1959 and have since resided at Kamloops, B.C. Cyril worked as a barber there for a number of years before retiring.

They have four daughters — Donna, Sheila,

Valerie and Cheryl — all married. There are also five grandchildren.

Daughter Inez and husband Joe Tucker lived in their newly built home at Donalda for approximately three years before she passed away in April, 1970. Joe passed on in November, 1974. The Tuckers have four children, all born when their parents were farming the original John Tucker farm and where son Bryan and wife Judy still farm. They have two children — Terry and Debbie. Joanne (Mrs. Don Vallet) lives with her family on the former Joe Vallet farm and they take an active interest in Science Mound activities. They have three children: Gary, Glen and Theresa (Mrs. Danny Jarmin).

Roger, (second child and eldest son of Joe and Inez) lived for a time in Edmonton with wife Jean, but now resides at Campbell River, Vancouver Island and operates a motel and fishing spot.

Darryl, youngest son and his wife Judy, live at Lloydminster, Alberta where he is employed by Schlumberger Co. Ltd. They have two daughters — Janet and Jill.

Floyd and wife Ida still reside on the Jesse Jones homestead since their marriage in 1939. Their son Randy and wife Linda also live here and presently operate the farm. Daughter Nancy (Mrs. Wayne Paul) lives in the Red Willow area presently. They operate a new business “Donalda Lumber” in Donalda as of July, 1979. They have two children — Kristine and Kory.

There have been many changes since 1963. Farms in the Science Mound area have changed hands. Small family farms are fewer, since large farming operators have bought much of the land. Our son, Randy, was one of the last pupils to attend the Science Mound school which closed its doors in 1954. The old school is now our Community Centre which, through a government grant plus club members efforts, has been renovated into a very presentable interior with kitchen added, and a propane heating system.

Jesse Jones was an avid gardener, and loved to plant trees, as evidenced by the “homestead farmyard”. Most of the spruce and maple trees are now seventy-five years old, towering many feet into the sky, providing beautiful shade in the summer, and warmth in winter.

Floyd and Ida still live in the original house which they have renovated through the years. Floyd is proud of the log beam which he has uncovered on our kitchen ceiling. It has been sanded and varnished, a loving memory of his fathers home, some seventy-five years ago.



Etta and Carl Klines' Wedding, 1936.



Lionel, Carl and Etta Kline.

Carl Kline

Carl came with his parents from Rock Lake, North Dakota to the Science Mound district in 1918. His parents worked for Bert Jones and Carl went to Science Mound School for awhile. He later returned to North Dakota and spent some time in New Mexico.

Carl worked for Bert Jones and he can remember hauling grain with team and sleigh when the temperature was thirty-five to forty degrees below zero Fahrenheit. Often there would be a line of teams and sleighs going through the coulee to Donalda with men walking behind to keep warm.

In 1936 Carl married Etta Anderson and to this union two sons were born. Lionel, who is now farming the land and lives at home and Johnny who passed away in 1942. Carl still lives on the farm and has never found any place where he would rather be.

Konschuh Family

Dave and Jean Konschuh moved to the Science Mound Area in 1948 where they farmed the Keith Pickering land. Their children all attended Science Mound school, and the family took part in all the neighborhood activities.

In 1955 they left Science Mound and moved to Red Willow. Dave worked as janitor of the Cora Lynn School until it was destroyed by fire in December of 1963. Later they moved to Kelowna, British Columbia.

They had three children: Ronald and his wife Denise, live at Airdrie, Gerald and his wife Leona (Stanvik) and family live in Stettler; and Pat (Mrs. Bob Evans) lives in North Delta, British Columbia.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Large

Bert and Haddie Large, with their son Bill and daughter Vera came from Prince Edward Island to the Glen Park area in 1929. In the year 1930 they moved to the Science Mound district. Bill married Amelia Kromm. They farmed and also operated a machinery agency (Bill's Farm Supplies). Vera became a school teacher and married Bill Van Orle.

Bert and Haddie had a farm sale and retired to Botha in 1936.

Latimers

The Latimers moved onto the land homesteaded by Mrs. Hubbel, S.W. 4-41-18-w4 after World War I. Mr. and Mrs. Latimer had two children, a son Edgar and a daughter. They farmed for a few years and then moved to the Vancouver area. Mr. Latimer

worked until retirement as a hospital orderly. Their son Edgar taught school for many years and is now retired.

Argyll Lyster

Argyll and Jeanne Lyster bought the N.E. 4-41-18-w4 and the N.W. 3-41-18-w4 in June of 1951 from Oscar Christians. Argyll was one of Reg and Vada Lyster's children, pioneers of the Red Willow district.

Argyll, Jeanne and son Dale moved out to the farm in March of 1952, and have lived there ever since.

They have five children; Dale married Antoinette Walton and has two children, Brian and Amber.

Cathie married Doug Kruger and lives in Stettler.

Karen married James Irvine and lives in Port Alberni, British Columbia. They have two girls, Christel and Shannon.

Susan is in Fort Smith, North West Territories.

Linda married Guy Walstrom and lives near Stettler.

The children attended Cora Lynn School until it burned down in December of 1964, then they attended Donaldda and later Stettler for high school.

The family have been active in Home and School, Cubs and Scouts, 4-H, and Jeanne is President of the U-Go Weavers at the present time.

W. H. Meredith Family

The Merediths homesteaded the S.E. 14-41-18-w4 (across the road from the Science Mound School). They did not stay very long in the district and it is believed they returned to their former home in Idaho, U.S.A.

Glen Meredith (a son of W. H.) stayed on in Science Mound and married Merle Sterns. They farmed the homestead land and also N.W. 14-41-18-w4 where they lived. They had two boys, Gordon and Ronnie who attended Science Mound School, and later a baby girl was born. In 1932-1933 the Meredith house burned to the ground, nothing was saved but everyone escaped unharmed.

After the fire, the family moved back to the United States.

Lindly Bert McBride

Bert and Suphrona McBride with their three children, Dorothy, Nola and Raymon, left Kansas in March, 1914, with the first train load of settlers from central United States for the Bassano area at Gem, Alberta. Two more girls were born at Gem, Marguerite and Ruth.

The family moved to Willow Park district on the



Annie Pickering, Raymon McBride, Keith Pickering, Nola McBride. In front Marguerite McBride.

Wolverton Place in April, 1926. Then to the Science Mound District in April, 1927, at which time Bert was kicked by a horse and died in May, 1927.

Dorothy married Paul Richards and had seven children. They moved back to the States in 1934 and now live in the Vancouver-Washington area.

Nola married Fred Becker in 1931 and worked around the Donaldda area for a few years, then moved to Crossfield. They have three children and six grandchildren. Fred passed away in 1958 and Nola lives in Calgary.

Raymon married Edith Jones (daughter of Conrad Jones-Donaldda) in 1938 moving to Carlos, then Canmore. He has three children and twelve grandchildren. Edith passed away in 1952 and Raymon still lives in Canmore.

Marguerite married Keith Pickering and stayed at Science Mound where Rita, Cyril and Inez were born. They moved to Calgary in 1937 where Neil was born. In 1947 they moved to Canmore, back to Red Willow in 1960, where Keith operated the hardware store. Keith passed away in 1961. In 1963, Inez and her husband, Walter Wickens, and their three children moved to the Pickering farm in Science Mound. Connie married Dale Marshall of Nevis and they have two girls. Murray and Jim are still at home in Erskine. Ruth married Anthony Buterman and lived in the Calgary area. Ruth passed away in 1977. They had no children.

There are eighty living descendents of Bert and Suphrona McBride.

Colin L. McKay Family

Colin L. McKay first came west from Prince Edward Island in 1901 to work in the lumber mills of Cranbrook, British Columbia. After returning to Prince Edward Island for a short time, he again came west in 1904 to work on a ranch in the Nanton district of Alberta. In the spring of 1905, Colin, with cousins Dave McKay, Wallace Pickering and a friend Jack Clark, came to what was later known as the Science Mound School District. They filed on adjoining homesteads. It was necessary in those first years of homesteading to work together and share horses and machinery. Lumber and supplies were brought from Lacombe, a good four day trip with teams and wagon. The mailing address at this time was Red Willow, Northwest Territories. The Science Mound district was filling up fast in the years from 1905 to 1910. During this time most of the homestead quarters were taken. The Science Mound School District was formed and a school built. In just a few short years the population grew to what perhaps was an all time high.

The first crops grown in the district were good but the grain varieties available at that time were not early enough for the short season and often frost came before it matured. Colin McKay said that 1911 was a wet year with late crops and frost. Wheat grading No. 6 and feed. The year 1915 was an especially good one with heavy crops, harvested before frost. This was the year that Alberta Government Telephones built its first telephone line in the district. The winter of 1919 was very cold, feed scarce and

many cattlemen ran out of hay and livestock perished. 1923 was another good crop year. More acres were under cultivation and threshing was becoming quite an undertaking. Often threshing continued into the winter, sometimes taking thirty-five to forty-five days. During the early thirties farm products fell far below the cost of production. Some prices were as follows: fat cows — three to four cents



Colin McKay and his brother Chester McKay

per pound, yearling steers — thirteen dollars each, range calves — six dollars each, wheat — twenty to thirty cents per bushel and oats and barley twelve to fifteen cents a bushel. About this time there were a series of dry years; the soil began to blow and dust storms often made field work impossible. The hardship and trauma of this period shaped and scarred a generation of those who lived through it.

Colin McKay married Ethel Flack of the Science Mound district on February 22, 1911. Their four children and grandchildren all live in Alberta. Melissa (Mrs. Stephen Wright) lives at Rimbey, Marjorie (Mrs. Benjamin Waterman) lives at Devon, Flack McKay lives on the original homestead at Donalds and Helen (Mrs. Folke Holmquist) lives in Stettler.



Ethel McKay with daughters Melissa and Marjorie



Ethel, Melissa, Helen, Mysie and Colin McKay

Lisle and Roseanne Waterman live in Calgary, Kenneth and Theresa Waterman are presently at Ft. McMurray and Thelma Waterman resides in Edmonton.

Flack McKay married Marie James of Toronto on March 29, 1947 after serving four and a half years with the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II. Their son Bryan and his wife Debra reside in Edmonton.

David J. McKay

David John McKay, father of this writer, left Prince Edward Island in the spring of 1905 to seek a homestead in Alberta. He went first to Nanton where his brother Henry, was already established and where his cousin Colin was working. Dave, my father, was too late to get a reasonably good homestead in the Nanton area. He bought a herd of colts and fillies, and set out to drive them to the Stettler area where the settlers were then being directed. Again the best farm land had already been taken—except the C.P.R. sections which were almost half of the countryside. The C.P.R. land was unfenced and was ideal for horse pasture. There was water in the sloughs and wonderful grazing; the poplar and willow groves provided shelter for animals.

Colin arrived at Stettler about the same time as Dad did with his herd of colts and fillies. The men thought it was a good place to settle and they filed on homesteads beside each other—the east half of section 22-41-18-W4. Two other Prince Edward Islanders joined them—Wallace Pickering who filed on a quarter about a mile away from the McKays; and Jack Clark who was a carpenter and helped to build many “first” houses for the homesteaders.

When I, Jim, was about two years old my mother died, a victim of the dreaded tuberculosis. Fortunately for me, my father was able to call on his sister, my Aunt Christy, who took the responsibility for bringing me up for nine years while Dad undertook the setting up of a new home in what is now the Science Mound district.

He married Margaret Creighton who soon became a wonderful second mother. Any success which I may have had in life, I owe to many people of strong character, but in particular I owe gratitude to Dad, Mother Maggie and Aunt Christy. They were wonderful people—quiet, considerate, self-sacrificing Christian people.

In December 1911, Aunt Christy brought me from Darnley, Prince Edward Island to Botha, Alberta where Mother Maggie met the train. (Dad was helping a neighbor with the very late threshing.) I vividly recall the after dark drive in the one horse

buggy. Threshing rigs were numerous each with a huge light provided by a burning straw-pile fed by the blower of the threshing machine.

Another vivid memory, as I settled into my new home, centered around the dinner table or the supper table. Dad had made a practice of reading aloud to the rest of us during the slack season, from the end of threshing until preparation for spring seeding. His favorite author was Charles Dickens. This was my introduction to good literature.

The early years were filled with problems. If we had to meet them, we would regard them as terrible hardships; but our parents were made of sterner stuff. They helped each other to build the standard homesteader's house (plans courtesy of the federal government). The house built for Colin is still in use for storage. Dad's “first” house was used as a granary until recent years.

One of the early problems was to learn what kind of fence is required for each kind of animal. I recall the trouble Dad had to keep the pigs in a pen. Horses will usually respect a barbed two-wire fence, but a sturdy netted wire fence is required to hold the hogs. Dad had no experience with wire fences; his experience in Prince Edward Island had been with log fences for pigs. No logs were available around Donaldia; and the pigs did not respect the light netted wire. Dad's efforts to teach them better manners consisted of chasing them until either the pig or my father was exhausted; usually it was father who gave up. The alternative was to buy heavier fencing; but one needs money to do that, and money was scarce around the homesteads.

The problem of cash flow was a serious one for the early settlers. Not only for fences but also for building a school and paying a teacher; also roads were needed. The road problem was solved as a partnership. The homesteader supplied the team of horses, a plow and the harness; the Improvement District supplied the bucket scraper and the larger fresno scrapers. Many a road was built by such a partnership; the settler got a primitive road and he “worked out” his road taxes.

School taxes were a different matter. The first school building was, by necessity, quite primitive. The Science Mound school was very cold at nine o'clock on a winter morning, and sometimes it required all morning to heat the uninsulated building. The pot-bellied stove had been replaced by a jacket model which gave a better circulation of warm air and was supposed to hold a coal fire overnight.

School was not all lessons and cold hands even in the earlier days. Indoor games and skating on the Stanlake sloughs provided a good variety of activi-

ties. In spring and fall a favorite game was Pum-pum Pullaway. Speaking of games brings to mind a heart warming reunion with Mrs. Jimmie Creighton who, in those early days, was teaching at the old Red Willow school. She recalled the baseball games. They didn't have nearly enough senior pupils to form a team; but we gave them some of our best players and we all proceeded to have a very good time. Sixty years and a thousand game situations later had not blurred her appreciation of the good sportmanship of the Science Mound pupils.

Dad was willing to accept many public service duties. He was a school trustee for many years, frequently as secretary-treasurer. He served a term as councillor of the municipal district. He took part in bringing Chautauqua to Donalda. This was a three evening combination of speakers and entertainers who put on their show in a huge tent. They were the chief outside source of really good summer programs. This was before the coming of even the primitive radios. Above all, my father was a leader in church affairs.

Others better informed than I am will write about the First World War (1914-1918), the first flu epidemic in the fall of 1918, the great Depression beginning in the fall of 1929, followed by the Dirty Thirties to the beginning of World War Two.

Mother Maggie died in 1932 and Dad followed her a year later.

The Hedley McKay Family

Hedley McKay came west from Prince Edward Island in the fall of 1905 and filed a homestead on the same quarter that son Donald and family now live on.

In 1915 he married Bertha Hodgson, also from Prince Edward Island and they built a home and raised a family.

Many miles of horse and buggy-wagon or sleigh were driven either visiting or involved in community raisings, such as building Science Mound School, telephone lines, roads, etc. The adjoining quarters and close neighbors were all relations from Prince Edward Island; Hedley's brother Colin, cousins Dave McKay, Wallace Pickering, John Clark and others.

Later years the children started school; first Don on horseback to Science Mound and then when the others started in Donalda, they had the wonderful experience of riding in a covered school van (wagon or sleigh, horse drawn) through the years till 1942. It was a long drive but not near as far as the gas busses go now. The van had to make detours and some of the early riders got out at the "two mile corner" on nice



Colin and Hedley McKay.

days and ran or walked to Donalda beating the van to school.

No wonder the McKay Clan have a great interest in track and field sports. The memorial events were; when the van loaded with fifteen or so children upset in the deep snow drifted roads; on warm days the sides of the van could be rolled up; the year end picnics; the secrets and gossip of the noisy filled van. Sam Strahan and Earl Heisz were faithful drivers for many years, also Earl McIntyre for a short spell.

Many fun filled events took place not only in the community but beyond. In the winter there were sleigh loads of folks off to house parties, skating, hockey games, ice carnivals and dances. In the summer there were biking, hiking, and many a picnic to Buffalo Lake. Joe Kaufman used to pick up a load in his truck and head for the lake. Also there were ball games, either practice or a game, and off to Willow Park, Star Ridge, Red Willow or elsewhere. School games of course went as far as Forestburg, Edberg and Bashaw.

Hedley and Bertha McKay retired to Donalda in 1953 and saw great changes through their sixty years in the community till their passing in 1972 and 1974 respectively.

Don and wife Evelyn continued farming the ori-



Hedley McKay with Don on horse and Mysie, Herbert and Wally, 1926.

ginal homestead. Don was active in all sports and is still a great sports fan, as are their sons Robin and especially Paul. Robin lives at home helping with the farm work and working in Stettler as a mechanic. Paul and Vicki (recently married) are working and living in Donalda. Oldest daughter Lorraine (Mrs. Irvine Knaft) lives at Spruce Grove, and Wendy at home.

Wally and wife Connie live semi-retired in Del Mar, California.

Herbert and wife Jessie live and work in Santa Clara, California with son Bruce and daughter Denise living close by.

Mysie and Murray Dermott semi-retired living in Stettler with their family scattered. David is in Halifax, Nova Scotia; Ron in Burlington, Ontario; Gloria and Peter Williams in Toronto and Marie is attending Red Deer College.

After all the travelling Mysie and Murray have done, both being in the Air Force during W.W.II and the regular forces till 1974 and living all across Canada and overseas, they came back to wonderful Alberta to retire. They still marvel at the natural beauty around Donalda, the interesting scenic coulees, the rolling hills, the quiet village, the peaceful trout fishing pond and one of the most attractive cemeteries to be seen anywhere.

Arthur McClary

In 1922 Arthur McClary came to the Science Mound district where he obtained his high school education. Arthur was a nephew of Maggie McKay, and after the death of his mother, he made his home with his Aunt and Uncle, the Dave McKays.

Arthur rode horseback six miles into Donalda each day to school summer and winter, and six miles home again. Some of the high school students at that time were; Thure Norman, Faye Murphy, Ruth Green, Clarence Erickson, Harry Green, Nola Tucker, Austin Lingren, Verlie Fitzpatrick and Fred Stanlake.

After high school Arthur became a school teacher and taught for a few years at various points in Alberta. He moved to Vancouver, British Columbia and went into the cattle marketing business with his Uncle Tom Baird (formerly of Red Willow).

Everett Paul

Everett and Tillie Paul and their six children arrived in Donalda in April 1963, taking up residence on the Erman Albright farm in the Science Mound area. They were formerly from Millarville, south of Calgary, where they had also farmed.

Everett and Tillie were both active in community



Everett and Tillie Paul and their children: L. to R.: Randy, Susan (Mrs. Keith Scott); David; Wayne; Lloyd; and Judy (Mrs. Bryan Tucker).

projects as well as activities in Donalda. Both were involved in Boy Scouts and 4-H Clubs. Everett was a willing worker for the Donalda Curling Club and they both enjoyed curling. Tillie was busy with Cemetery Club and ceramics and both were busy in the Science Mound Community Club.

The children completed their schooling and went their various ways.

Judy — eldest daughter — worked in the Imperial Bank of Commerce in Donalda before becoming Mrs. Bryan Tucker. Bryan and Judy have two children — Terry and Debbie — and live on the Tucker family farm.

Wayne married Nancy Jones — (daughter of Floyd and Ida) and farmed for a few years in the Donalda-Red Willow area. They recently started a new business in Donalda, The Donalda Lumber Yard. Wayne and Nancy and their two children, Kris and Kory reside in Red Willow.

Lloyd has been trucking in Stettler and Lloydminster areas, before becoming a partner in the Hardisty Cattle Co. Trucking Division. He also makes his home in Hardisty.

Randy ventured to Edmonton and while there married Debbie Gardner. Randy completed his mechanics course and is presently employed in Calgary.

Susan married a Winnipeg man — Keith Scott who is Claims Manager for Midland Superior. They are raising two girls — Terra and Teresa in Calgary where Keith is employed.

David and Barb (formerly Clark) reside in Edmonton. David is busy in his 3rd year Mechanics and Barb is completing her Teaching Degree.

Everett and Tillie sold their farm in May 1978 and moved west. They retired to Christina Lake, B.C.

The Wallace Pickering Story

by Annie (Pickering) Miller

Wallace Pickering and Harriet Bernard were married in Prince Edward Island in November 1904. In the spring of 1905 they set out for a pioneering life in Alberta, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. John Clarke and by Mr. Pickering's cousins, Colin and David McKay. They arrived in Nanton where the McKay's had a relative. To acquaint themselves with the conditions of the country, they found jobs for a few months. Mr. Pickering became a chore boy on a ranch west of Nanton. His duties were fence repairing, caring for the hunting dogs and saddle stock of the owners, and driving a team of ponies and a two-wheeled cart the twelve miles to Nanton for mail and ranch supplies.

It was not long till the "Islanders" assembled in Nanton with four teams of horses, wagons, harness and household supplies to seek homesteads, supplies were shipped to Lacombe and from there the men set out on horseback to the area known as Red Willow. They had been advised that good homestead land was available and that a Locator — Mr. Irv Barber, was on the spot. Also Mrs. Pickering's uncle — Dan Bernard had been in the area now known as Willow Park since 1902.

Wishing to be close together, David and Colin McKay chose the S.E. and N.E. quarters respectively on Section 22-41-18-w4. John Clarke the S.W. ¼ of section 14, and Mr. Pickering N.E. ¼-14. Colin also selected the N.W. ¼-22 for his brother Hedley who came the next year. They had 70 odd miles to ride back to Lacombe for their wives, and their wagons and supplies. The trip to Lacombe took about a week. All supplies and lumber had to be hauled from there on the trail going to the south of Buffalo Lake and across Tail Creek.



Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Pickering's Wedding 1904.

Because John Clarke was a carpenter, his home was built first and the two women lived in it instead of the tents, which had been their shelter, until Wallace Pickering's place was built. The McKay men continued to sleep in the tents for some time. Hay was cut for winter feed and they started breaking the land, by team and walking plow. Log barns were built for the stock.

Mail came to Old Red Willow and a small store was established. Mrs. Pickering and Mrs. Clarke often rode for the mail, both using side saddles and many were the tales they told of their races across the prairie. Mrs. Wallace Pickering (my mother) was a lover of horses and rode on her side saddle for many years. She always had her horse and buggy, and even with the advent of cars — she still preferred to use them.

The coming of the railway through Stettler ended the long trip to Lacombe. In 1909 or 1910 the Camrose-Stettler line came through and Donalda was established.

Early crops were disappointing, as early maturing varieties of wheat had not been developed and frost was a problem. My Father cut hay in the summer and hauled it to the railway camps. During the building of the Donalda line a winter camp, where the horses were kept in tents, was established on what became the Oscar Olson place — due west of the Pickering's. My father also hauled coal to Stettler from the mines along Meeting Creek. A trip to the mine one day and to Stettler the next. This provided a little cash or was traded for supplies.

Wild ducks and upland game were plentiful and my father was a good shot. In season it was always good for a joke when my father asked how many ducks were needed for meals and went out and brought at least that many home. The feathers were used in the many pillows and cushions my mother made. In the early years the ranchers, I suppose the Jones and Barbers, had a sort of beef ring and butchered regularly. Beef and pork were cured in brine, dried and stored in the oat bins. Wild berries were plentiful. A few times a year crates of dried fruit were ordered from travelling peddlers. Apples, prunes, peaches, raisins and apricots came in wooden flats much like those fresh fruit came in before cardboard. Grandparents occasionally shipped crates of dried cod fish from Prince Edward Island, along with yard goods and clothing for my mother and myself, as my grandmother was a dress maker. My mother made my father's and brother's shirts.

My mother often talked of the amount of visiting in the early years. People came Sunday morning and



Mrs. Pickering, Mr. Wallace Pickering, Mrs. McBride.

stayed all day. One family's mode of travel (either the Long's or Sears) was an ox and a mule hitched to a stoneboat. Other neighbours were: Oscar Davidson, Ed Robbins, H. W. Meredith, John Clement, and in later years the Haney families, Ollie and Jesse. Clarence Haney had been in the country some years previous. The Haney's love of picnics and social life added much to the community. They were noted for the gallons of ice cream they ground out of the old hand cranked freezers. Ice was cut from any clear body of water in the winter and packed in sawdust in sheds. When a U.F.A. organization was formed, Jesse Haney was remembered for his establishing that lunch would be served at the meetings. He was a big man and he stood up at the meeting in Science Mound School, one foot planted against the double desk on either side of the aisle and stated, "Most people eat to live, but I live to eat. I move we have lunch."

The first church service was held in 1906, by the Reverend Robert Clements of the Methodist Church. Church services, conducted by ministers from Red Willow, were held in the school for many years.

Donalda doctors were Dr. Bond in 1911, Dr. Wall in 1919 or 1920 and Dr. Jackson. My mother was called on many times to give assistance in homes where there was illness, and spent long hours sitting

up with a patient. She was also noted for her chicken soup, particularly during the flu epidemic of 1918.

The native grass grew up to the horses knees, so prairie fires were dreaded. One swept over the homestead burning a hay stack and a small log building. Green lumber in the house saved it. After the fire, Mrs. Pickering found her chickens around the edge of a small slough and the milk cows down in Willow Creek. I remember my father telling of one fire which swept along north of the coulee on the land north of the Colin McKay homestead. A strong wind was blowing and driving the flames faster than saddle horses could run. The men dragged wet sacks before it in a desperate effort to keep the fire from crossing the coulee and getting into the settlement. Their efforts were successful.

About 1914 a salesman from Stettler sold Model T Ford Touring cars, complete with side curtains and the crank at the front (for starting the motor) to Oscar Davidson, David McKay, John Clarke, and Wallace Pickering. They were all delivered the same day by men who had to teach the new owners to drive. How busy the narrow, rutty roads in Science Mound were that evening with four cars maneuvering about when they chanced to meet. Trips to picnics or for berry picking at Buffalo Lake had their humorous incidents. Any one whose low clutch band was worn could not make the steep hills. One came around corners carefully as in all probability the car ahead would be coming down backwards, to turn around and negotiate the hill in reverse.

Neighbors already in the area when the "Islanders" arrived were the families of Bert Jones, Irv Barber, Jessie Jones, Whaleys, Switzers, Sears, Oscar Davidson, E. K. Robbins, Ernest Pontious, and Samuel Flacks. Coming later were the H. W. Merediths and John Clements.

Mother and Mrs. Clement were great berry pickers and we finally succeeded in getting a picture of



Mrs. Pickering on right — note side saddle, 1910-1912.

them in the outfits they wore to prevent getting scratched and to foil the mosquitoes. Mrs. Clement's favorite was a pair of John's overalls and a peanut straw hat. The Switzers and Whaleys had a large ranch and in those days, a luxurious home, with its curtained windows, fine china and silverware. The women always dressed in silks. Mrs. Switzer was the Whaleys' daughter. Their musical talent and friendliness were long remembered and our families kept in touch for many years.

My mother's uncle Dan Bernard must be mentioned. They gave the Islanders much help and encouragement. Dan had studied to be a doctor until his health broke. My mother was very ill with a bleeding ulcer during the second summer on the homestead and credits her uncle's care and knowledge of diet to her recovery.

Another good neighbor was Mrs. Hubble who lived across the road from the Clarence Haney's. After her husband's death she lived on the farm for many years. She had a white mare "Bell" which she drove to visit around the country. She often stayed several days with the Pickerings and "Bell", having outlasted her, found a home with us for her remaining years.

In a few years the John Clarkes returned to Prince Edward Island and Wallace Pickering bought their homestead and moved there. He soon bought the adjoining S.E. 1/4-15 for pasture. I remember the ruts of the old Edmonton to Red Deer cart trail which crossed the S.W. 1/4-15, and which John Clement later bought.

Water was always a problem. Many wells were dug or bored but the water was insufficient and very hard. In the early 1930's Charlie Stratton drilled a well on a site he had witched. At about 270 feet, after going through a fifteen foot seam of very hard coal, an inexhaustible supply of very soft water was obtained. With a windmill and stand-by gas engine we now had plenty of water. Horse power was used for the drilling and my brother Keith and I took turns sitting on the platform over the cog wheels keeping the horses at a steady pace round and round.

Riding to social events in the grain box of a sleigh in the winter brings back pleasant memories especially if our Aunt Ina Bernard was along. She pointed out all the stars and was a great story teller. In the early years, drives of ten or twelve miles at twenty-five or more below zero were common. My mother told of driving to Red Willow in fifty below weather to an entertainment of Mark Twain anecdotes (temperatures quoted in Fahrenheit).

Brush clearing before the advent of power machinery was slow and laborious. A logging chain

was placed around a clump of willows or poplar trees and a team of horses wrested it from the ground.

Mrs. John Thibeu was a good neighbor, and helped out the Pickering family many times during the First World War years. Clarence was born at home with Dr. Wall attending and Mrs. Thibeu as mid-wife.

The three Pickering children attended Science Mound school through Grade eight. Keith decided to be a farmer. Annie and Clarence boarded in, or rode horseback to Donalda for their High School education. Annie taught school for many years and is now Mrs. Alex Miller of Paradise Valley, Alberta. Keith married Marguerite McBride and farmed the "Clarke" place for a few years. He lived in Calgary and Canmore, then bought the Red Willow Hardware and Post Office. He passed away in 1962. Keith's children: Rita — now living in Kamloops, British Columbia; has two boys: Fred, now married and has one child. Larry, not married. Both boys are living in Edmonton. Cyril Keith joined the airforce when young, now retired and living in Kamloops. He had two daughters: Vicki — Mrs. Barry Finnimore of Vernon, British Columbia, and Norma — still in school. Inez married Walter Wickens, lived on her father's farm a few years, in Castor, Stettler and now Erskine, Alberta. She has three children: Connie — now married at Erskine and has two children. Murray — away from home working, and James — still in school, Neil — married with two children lives in Calgary.

Clarence — lived in Nanton and Calgary, served in the Airforce, now retired and living in Vancouver. He has two daughters.

Wendy — Mrs. Richard Vaughn of Vancouver — has two children.

Valerie — Mrs. Gerry Moss of Edmonton. Valerie has three children — Mark, Paul and Lana, all in school.

Step-son Raymond — a doctor — married with two children lives in Vancouver.

Wallace Pickering died in 1939. Mrs. Pickering, after his death, moved to Calgary where she took care of her mother, Mrs. John Bernard, for many years. She died in 1964. Both are buried in Donalda Cemetery.

How amazed these pioneers, now long gone, would be at the labor saving machinery and equipment we now enjoy. The affluence which provides us with refrigerators, deep freezes, electric, propane or gas heat, huge machinery of all kinds and little manual labor. Gone are the days of caring for horses, harnessing six or eight every morning to plow all day, walking behind the harrows until you could

afford a harrow cart; the long days of putting up hay which must be gathered with a pole device and slid up long poles to build the stack, or later the overthrow stacker. The canning of meat, poultry, vegetables and fruit. No more hauling the grain by team and sleigh or wagon or hauling coal from the mines for heating (lucky Donalda Area).

We and our province owe these pioneers a great debt. Surely our generation and those to come will remember and appreciate their struggles and have the foresight to preserve our heritage.

E. J. Pontious

E. J. Pontious homesteaded a mile north of the Science Mound School on the S.W. 1/4 24-41-18-w4. This land was later soldier settlement land and became the home of Bob Smith. There is no record of where the Pontious family settled after leaving the Donalda district.

Robbins Family

Edward and Annie Robbins and their family came from Council Bluffs, Iowa in 1904. They first came to Ponoka, Alberta by train. They lived here for one year, then homesteaded about seven miles north of Red Willow. Four children were born in Council Bluffs, one in Ponoka and the other four at Red Willow. The family: Mother was born on May 16, 1873; Father was born on August 21, 1875; Leslie was born in August 1897; Eddie was born in April 1899; Myrtle was born in November 1900; Thomas was born in March 1902; Millie was born in September 1904; Ernie was born in January 1905; Charlie was born in March 1908; Mary was born in January 1910; and Lydia was born in March 1912.

We attended school at Science Mound. Church was held in the school. We attended the Methodist and Church of England as they were held on alternate Sundays at the school.

Our neighbors were Leonard Cahil, John Clements, Hubbles and John Clarks.

In 1908 our Dad bought another quarter section of land, east of the homestead. This was our home while we were growing up. We had many picnics and dances at home. During our homestead days there were many prairie fires, and dry years during the depression.

Leslie and Mary went on to be school teachers. Leslie taught at Waskatenau where he met Sally Evans, and they were married there. He also taught at Red Willow, Donalda, Stony Plain and Canmore, where he quit teaching and joined the army.

Eddie went to Stettler High School with Leslie and married Mildred Young, stayed and farmed for

awhile then moved to Bonners Ferry, Idaho. Then on to Council Bluffs where he worked for the railroad.

Tom went to High School with Myrtle at Donalda. Tom married Gladys Marshall and farmed for awhile at Stettler, then went to Nelson where he worked on the railroad.

Myrtle was a telephone operator, worked at Erskine and then went to the States where she married Jim Low. They had a summer resort at Priest River, Idaho.

Millie went to High School at Red Willow and Erskine. She moved with her folks to British Columbia for two years, met and married George Topham. They have a peach orchard and worked in packing houses.

Ernie stayed and worked on the farm. He married Winnie Chapman. They had a farm near Stettler and he worked as a mechanic there, until he passed away in 1979.

Charlie went to Bonners to brother Eddie, here he met and married Cora. He worked as a milkman, then moved to Seattle where they bought a dry goods store and lived there until he passed away in 1977.

Mary taught school at Spruce Coulee. She went out to British Columbia and met and married Reg Moody. They have an orchard at Winfield, British Columbia.

Lydia attended school at Science Mound, Wild Rose and High School in Stettler. She married Clarence Chapman and they farmed in the Stettler area where they still live.

Our Mother passed away in Stettler in 1948; Dad in Kelowna in 1951; Les in Stettler; Tom in Vancouver; Charlie in Seattle in 1977; and Ernie in Stettler in 1979.

Robert T. Smith

Robert and Isabelle Smith came to Canada from England and settled in Calgary, Alberta. In the spring of 1915 Robert enlisted in the 50th Battalion and in the fall left Calgary for England and then France. He was wounded while fighting on the Somme. Following his convalescence in England, he went back into action with the Canadian Engineers. He received his discharge in 1919 and then he and his wife moved to Donalda to the Science Mound district. Here they farmed on soldiers settlement board land until they retired and moved to Donalda, where they lived for over fifteen years. Robert passed away in 1967 followed by his wife in 1970. Their children are; Robert, living in Yorkshire, England. Eileen married to Alex Hildreth and farmed for many years north west of Donalda. Alex passed away in 1976. Eileen lives in Camrose. Their daughter Betty and family



Eileen, Betty and Alex Hildreth.



R. T. Smith Family. Cyril (Bud), Eileen. Center: Belle and Bob. Bottom: Velda and Madelon.

live on an acreage east of Camrose. Cyril (Bud) lives in High River. Velda married George Richman and resided in Red Deer until her death in 1976. They had two sons; Dwayne, who is married and farms in Loreburn, Saskatchewan and Douglas living in Red Deer. Madelon now resides in Camrose with her sister Eileen, after being abroad for the last ten years.

Stanlake

Chester and Louise Stanlake and four year old Fred came from Exeter, Ontario, to the Science Mound area in 1911. They bought the farm, directly north-east of the school where Dorothy, Ruth and Kenneth were born. A brother and nephew of Louise; Henry and Herb Deering, came to live with them. Henry eventually returned east but Herb remained and throughout his life worked on a number of farms in that area.

In 1919 the farm was sold and the family moved to Donalda where Chester built and operated the

“Donalda Garage”. He owned one of the first McLaughlin-Buick touring cars in the area, a very elegant vehicle at that time.

In 1922, Louise died and about three years later Chester and the two boys moved to Victoria. Dorothy became a member of the Earl Porter family and Ruth went to Kansas to live with Clarence Barber, brother of Rose Porter. She and her husband are now living at Elkland, Missouri.

Dorothy worked for several years at Stettler, Berwyn and Athabasca hospitals, then married Bill Strojich and lived in Ottawa for 25 years. After two years of volunteer work in Africa, they returned to Alberta and are now living in Bonnyville.

Fred died in 1949 in a logging accident at Port Alberni, British Columbia.

Kenneth, who left Donalda as a very young lad loves to reminisce about the old days. If you will listen, he will tell you tales, mostly of himself, like his fascination for matches and “little fires” and about the day the new minister came to call. He met Ken’s mother at the door with “Your porch is on fire”, and a little boy just vanished behind the house. The culprit was caught and the fire extinguished. Not to be deterred, the unrepentant youth arsonist and playmate did succeed in burning a shed at the end of the street where Netty Dickey lived.

Kenneth is now “going straight” and lives with his wife, Pat, in Saanichton, British Columbia. He pioneered cablevision in the Victoria area, which he maintains. He also owns and operates a local television station. As a hobby he raises a few cattle and horses on a small farm near his home.

Sam Strahan Family

In 1928 Mr. and Mrs. Sam Strahan moved to the Donalda district with their four children; Edna, Walter, Orville and Melba; Verna and Gilbert were born at Donalda.

Sam Strahan was a school van driver for several years and following this he began farming and farmed here till 1971 when he retired and moved to Ireland. He passed away in March 1976, and was predeceased by his son Walter in 1951.

Edna (Collins) resides in Edmonton, has one daughter and five grandchildren. Orville has a service station at Minburne; has two daughters and one grandson. Verna (Rae) resides in Edmonton and has one son. Mrs. Strahan, Gilbert and Melba (Bazylin-ski) reside on farms in the Science Mound area.

John Sideritsch Family

John Sideritsch was born in 1906 in Stegersbach, Austria. On February 26, 1928 he married Maria



Maria and John Sideritsch, Wetaskiwin, 1929.

Serensitch. After his marriage he left Austria and his newly acquired bride for Canada and arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia on March 18, 1928, travelling via the Gunthter Ship Line. From Halifax he went west to Wetaskiwin, Alberta where he found employment with Canadian Pacific Railway. After working several months, he was able to send for his wife Maria, who left Vienna September 19, 1929 on the Westphalia Ship Line and arrived in Canada October 11, 1929 to join her husband in Wetaskiwin. Later, they moved to south to Barons, Alberta where they worked for a large grain farmer. Finding this unsatisfactory they went back to Wetaskiwin where John helped clear land. Next they moved to the Red Willow district where they worked for Henry Christians Sr. During this time, their son Otto, who was born in Austria and cared for by his maternal grandmother, came by himself on the ship Karlsruhe to be reunited with his parents on August 16, 1931.

Earning a living was very difficult so John decided to have a sale of their household goods and the few cows, pigs, and chickens that they had accumulated. Their milk cow was sold to Wallace Wiggington for ten dollars. Then they travelled by train to Courtenay, British Columbia, where they hoped to start over again. However, after a brief discouraging stay, they once again returned to Wetaskiwin for the winter, working at odd jobs. The following spring they moved back to the Red Willow area and rented the Hans Christians farm. Infalation had hit and Wallace Wiggington sold back the same milk cow to John for one hundred and ten dollars.

After this they rented the Haney farm for several years and eventually bought this place, which has been their home ever since. At this time another son Ray, was born August 1, 1936. The family continued to work very hard, milking cows and using horses.

They stooked for neighbours and helped out at threshing time. On July 10, 1943 a third son Karl was born. Progress was being made and John acquired more land and tractors were used in farming. The electric power was installed in 1961. John was actively engaged in farming until his death on September 19, 1968.

Maria continues to live on the home place. She keeps busy with her large bountiful garden and many beautiful flowers and shrubs.

The youngest son Karl, who was married to Trudy Howlett on July 17, 1965 also lives on the home place. Besides farming, Karl is toolpush for Adeco Oil Drilling Co. They have three sons; Darren, Gregory and Terry. All attended Donalda School.

John's oldest son, Otto, worked at many various jobs on farms and also logging in British Columbia where he was crushed by a falling tree. After two years of treatment he came back to Alberta where he met and married Elizabeth Nicklom on August 30, 1953. He then tried working on oil drilling rigs. After following the rigs for several years to numerous places such as Sylvan Lake, Red Deer, Eckville and Nanton, Otto and Betty decided to buy the farm one mile north of the home place. They moved there in March of 1958 with their family of two boys, Steven (four years) and Ralph (two years). On September 4, 1960 a daughter Cathy was born. Otto continued to work part-time on the oil rigs and later on pipelines as well as carrying on farming. Betty went back to teaching school in 1967 at Gadsby, 1967-68 at Rocky Mountain House and then at Donalda from 1968 to 1977. Steven graduated from Stettler High School in 1972 and later attended Red Deer College. He now resides in Red Deer where he is employed with Simpsons-Sears. Ralph became a licensed motor mechanic and has been employed at Eric's Garage, Donalda



John Sideritsch, 1932.

for the past five years. The youngest, Cathy, Graduated from Stettler High School in June 1978 and is presently working in Banff, Alberta.

Ray Sideritsch, John and Maria's second eldest son worked at home for awhile and then worked for several oilfield construction companies. He married Dian Pambrum of Ponoka on June 1, 1959. They lives in olds for awhile later moving to Brooks, Alberta in 1965. Here, Ray formed his own company "Twin R. Oilfield Construction" which has grown and prospered over the years. Dian and Ray have three daughters. Patty graduated from High school in June 1978 and is expecting to attend college at Rosemary. Penny is attending high school and Tammy is in Junior High School in Brooks.

John Thibeau

John and Ida, with their family lived in the Science Mound community in 1921, a mile south of the school where John farmed. They were a good community minded family.

In 1937 they moved two miles west of the school. In 1949 they moved to Red Willow, going to the farm with the tractor pulling a wagon so Ida would have a place to ride. By this time their family were out on their own.

They both enjoyed having company and young folks around. Ida enjoyed showing the pictures of their grandchildren. In 1954, they sold the land and moved to Edmonton.

They had six children; Iona lives at Williams Lake, British Columbia, Joe (deceased), Jack of Edmonton, Cecilia (Mrs. Jim McMurray) of Blackfalds, Lorna (Mrs. Bob McMurray) of Qualicum Beach, British Columbia and Muriel who lives in Toronto, Ontario. John and Ida are both deceased.

Benoit Vallet Family

Benoit Vallet arrived in Canada in 1906 and took up a homestead in the Cowley, Alberta area. Mrs. Vallet and daughter Jeanne (Mrs. Jean Bernard) now of Edmonton arrived later; Joe and Eugene were born in that area. Benoit went back to France, joined the army and fought in World War I. He returned after the war was over and in 1919 the whole family went back to France. Eugene and his father returned to Blairmore, Alberta in November of 1927 and worked in the mine. In March 1928, Mrs. Vallet, Joe, oldest sister Jeanne and her husband and Eugenie (who was born in France) returned to Canada. In April 1928 they moved to the Frank Hastings farm in the Star Ridge district. Eugenie started school that fall. The teacher, Linda Flack, who had grades one to nine, had six beginners that year. Eugenie only spoke

French and Albert Henke could only speak German; another example of what teachers had to do in those days. In 1931 Ben Vallet went homesteading at Fork Lake, Alberta and the boys and their mother rented the Walverton land and started farming, later buying land of their own.

Joe married Rosie Hilker in 1933 and started on his own. They have four sons who are all married and have families. Don bought the home place in 1975 and has been farming it since Joe retired to Stettler. Aldon lives in Edmonton, working in the oilfield; Wayne lives at Mission, B.C. where he has a backhoe business; Dale lives in Lacombe and works in the oilfield also.

Eugene married Anne Hillaby in 1937 and they have one son Clayton who is on a farm near Pelican Point. Eugene and Anne sold their farm in 1977 and moved to Stettler.

Eugenie married Roger Dhenin of Halkirk in 1945 and have two children; Yvonne (Mrs. Richie Larson) of Donalda and Ernie, who is married also, stayed on the farm at Halkirk and works for Husky Oil.

Wallace Wiggington

Wallace came to the Donalda district in 1912. In 1919, he married Ruth Campbell of Prince Edward Island and for a number of years they lived in the Science Mound district. Ruth gave piano lessons, some of her pupils were Inez Jones, Ruth Kline, Clarence Pickering and Marjorie McKay.

Ruth had a good sized collection of salt and pepper shakers. Both Wallace and Ruth took part in the neighborhood activities and Ruth was a member of the Science Mound Ladies Aid.

When Wallace retired from farming, they moved into Red Willow, where they remained until Ruth's passing. Wallace was living in Heart Haven Home at the time of his passing.

Jacob and Elizabeth Winters

Jacob and Elizabeth Winters came from Burstall, Saskatchewan in 1937 with their children Alfred, Irene, Esther and Olinda to farm in the Science Mound district.

The children went to school at Star Ridge and Science Mound.

Irene married Philip Stolee. They had two children, Valerie and Sherry. Irene passed away in 1954.

Esther married Oscar Christians. They farmed for a couple of years and then moved to Calgary. They have four children; Rodger, Jimmy, Virginia and Kathy.

Olinda married Clayton (Budd) Christians. They farmed, ran a cafe in Red Willow and Budd worked for the county grading roads. They moved to Stettler where Budd worked on a pipeline. They have three children; Marvin, Judy and Johnnie.

Alfred married Jewel (Dewey) Tucker. They had five children; Lance, Vance, Irene, Perry and Lisa.

They farmed in the Science Mound and Seven Nations districts before moving to Calgary.

Jacob and Elizabeth sold their farm to Fred Richelhoff in 1960 and moved to Donalda to retire. Jacob passed away in 1961. Elizabeth resides in Heart Haven Home in Stettler.

Seven Nations School District

Hazel Grove School

Children from the families in the Seven Nations District attended Hazel Grove School. This school was two and one-half miles to the west of Johansons. There were years when there were 45 pupils in attendance. Many means of transportation were used; horse-drawn carts, horseback, bicycle, and walking. Some of the teachers were; Mrs. Null—whose husband taught at Buena Vista, Miss Anderson (Irene Streberg), Miss M. Lawson returning for several more years. Miss van Patten, Miss Pratt, Miss Hagen, Miss Olsen, Miss Vegan, Miss Bateman (Mrs. Bruno Anderson), Miss Helen Hughes, Miss Gillespie, Miss Barkley and Itha Green.

The school closed in 1947.

Hilding Adamson

Hilding Adamson batched on his farm north west of Donalda. He worked as a carpenter helping Bert Johnson. They built many of the houses in Donalda and Red Willow and surrounding countryside. Hilding moved into Donalda when he retired and lived there until his passing.

Fred Anderson

Fred Anderson emigrated from Sweden to Chicago, U.S.A. in 1900. In 1903, he homesteaded in the Meeting Creek area. For many years he lived on his homestead in the summer and worked in the silver mines in British Columbia during the winter. In 1911 he married Alma Person who had emigrated from Sweden to Minneapolis, Minnesota. For many years they farmed the homestead until illness forced him to turn the farming over to his son. They had four children: Violet, (Mrs. Harold Yttri), Ruby, Karin, all of Camrose, and Bruno at Rosalind.

Fred passed away in 1944 after a lengthy illness. Alma moved to Camrose with Karin in 1956 and lived there until her passing in 1966.

Ruby owned and operated the Meeting Creek

Cafe, then the Blue Mill Cafe in Donalda for many years before going to Camrose.

Bruno farmed the homestead until 1976 when he retired to Rosalind. In 1946 he married Bernice Bateman of Castor. They have three children: Ardena (Mrs. David Storms of Tofield), Heather and John.

Violet and Harold Yttri owned the Red Head Service Station in Meeting Creek for a number of years before moving to Camrose. They had three children: Geraldine (Mrs. Bernard Murphy of Camrose), Harland in Norway, and Merland (Deceased).

The Badry Family

Alf and Faye Badry, with two small children moved to the Donalda area around 1951. They bought the Eli Thibeau farm at that time and rented a half section from Mike Vikse, later buying it. Three more children were born at Donalda.

Mr. and Mrs. Badry continue to live on the farm with their son Dale. Marilyn (Mrs. Gerald Forsberg) lives at Edberg. Don is married and lives in Red Deer, Alphonse is married and lives in Legal, and Sherry (Mrs. Bill Staggs) lives in Camrose.

Seth Bergstrom

Seth arrived from Sweden in May 1927 at age 24. His wife Vanja followed in January 1928, age 19. They went to work for Hoffman in Donalda in April of 1928. In October a daughter was born. Mrs. Oberg, a midwife was called to help with the delivery. In November, Seth and his brother Gus took on a contract to cut brush clearing a quarter of land. Vanja was cooking for them, all living in a small bunkcar containing two beds, table and stove. In the spring of 1929, they rented a quarter of land from John Stanvick. The Vikses took pity on them, lending them a cow, so they would have milk for the household. Some gifts were given to them from friends as follows; seven chickens, a pig, two horses, and six turkeys eggs. It was here raising turkeys began, and continued until 1968, sometimes raising as many as a

thousand turkeys in one year. They bought two horses to complete the number needed to do the farming.

That fall Seth was busy cutting the crop with the binder and Vanja was out stooking and a problem arose. What to do with their wee daughter? They decided to put a sled behind the binder for her to ride in. Finally Vanja decided to check to see how the girl was doing. Oh my, this would not do, they thought they had a negro child, all they could see was dust and two white eyes. Having pity on the child she put her in the buggy and pushed her from windrow to windrow while stooking. Lucky too, for within the next few rounds, Seth had a runaway with the binder.

The cow was milked, from the cream, butter was churned and printed, eggs were gathered, and these products were taken to Donalda to trade for groceries at the local store.

In August of 1930 a son was born. On the evening before the arrival, Seth being in the hospital, the hired help Adolf Oberg was asked to go to the neighbors to call the mid-wife, Mrs. Oberg for help. Becoming very excited he ran in the dark across country, got all tangled up in a forgotten fence, but call Mrs. Oberg he did. He arrived home much later, needless to say minus a good deal of his pants. The mid-wife arrived and all went well.

In 1931 they moved to S.E.26-42-19-w4, called the Lundeen farm. This farm was doomed for hail, as many times the hailstones were as big as golf balls. While living here the children started school in Donalda, going by horse drawn van driven by Ole Stenlund. In the winter they left for school in the dark and arrived home after dark.

In 1938 they rented the Bert Robert farm. In 1940 they moved back to the Lundeen farm to stay while building a house and barn on the land they bought, which was the Wahlberg homestead W15-42-19-w4. In the spring of 1941 they moved to their own farm, continuing to milk cows, raising turkeys and farm. They purchased one of the first windmills in the district. Travelling was done by wagon, buggy and sled, many times picking up neighbors as they went along to town or outings. Their sleighbells were a real highlight on a cold evening sleighride. They purchased their first half-ton truck in 1954, and horses were put aside.

In April of 1970 Seth passed away. Vanja is still living on their farm by herself. Ruby, the daughter, married Allan Swedberg and lives in Meeting Creek. To this union four sons and one daughter were born. Alvin a son, married Bernice Lundell living in the Meeting Creek area, raising five sons and two daughters.

Gus Bergstrom

Gus Bergstrom arrived from Sweden in 1925 at nineteen years of age. He worked for Lawsons and others. In 1927 he bought a quarter section of land in the Donalda district and experienced many trying times. He lived in a small one room shack approximately eight by ten feet. It was furnished with a stove, bed, table and apple boxes for chairs. He was noted for befriending all the unemployed (with their pack sacks), giving them food and bed, sometimes for days at a time.

Later he built a house, continued farming; milking cows and raising pigs. In 1950, he returned to Sweden, coming back to Donalda with his bride. She passed away in 1960.

He married Anna Lundell in 1967. They lived on his farm until he died in February 1971.

Charles Chapman

Charles (28) and Violet (32) Chapman with son Harold arrived from Lincoln, England in March 1925. They were called soldier settlers and sent to a half section of land four and one-half miles north west of Donalda. There was a three room house on it and that is where I was born in November 1925. Rosemary was born in 1930.

Since Dad didn't have much machinery, he worked with a neighbor, Mr. Clarence DeWitt; he then rented Mr. DeWitt's farm and we moved to it. He rented it for half of the crop, which in 1929, when wheat was nineteen cents a bushel and threshing was six cents didn't leave much for either one of them. All machinery was horse drawn.

Dad also worked with Cecil and Harvey Winter, our neighbors to the north, for butchering and other jobs that had to be done with horses and cattle.

My mother taught piano lessons to a large number of people, in and around the district. She bought a new piano and it is at the coast now.

Unfortunately our mother died in 1931 and Dad was left with three small children, one, a fourteen month old baby. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Erickson were wonderful friends and helped an awful lot over the next few years. He had hired help, Mrs. Forbes and son Murray, Mrs. Everett Hagen and two sons, Everett and DeVeer and Lola Heare who married Cecil Winters.

Dad remarried in 1938; our step-mother came from Newark, England. It wasn't easy to come to a new country and raise three small children after living in the city all her life.

We used to travel by horseback or buggy. I can remember taking cream and eggs to the creamery. We also went from the Seven Nations district to

school at Donalda in a van driven by Mr. Ole Stenlund and he drove all of us throughout our twelve years of school. The school burned down in 1937, but a new one was ready in 1938. Miss Whitehorn was my first teacher, later Miss Lawson took her place. Clarence Erickson, Mr. Hoover and Mr. Kerr were high school teachers before I got there. Later it was Miss Deveer, Mr. C. Johnson, Mr. F. Jacobs and Mr. S. Simonson. Harold finished grade ten and went to Olds Agriculture School (College) one year, then joined the R.C.A.F. Dad was on the Donalda school board for years.

The folks sold their farm at Donalda and moved to Lacombe in 1946. They started going to the coast each winter, then retired to Sidney, B.C. In July 1975, Dad had a stroke and passed away. Mother is still living in the house they built and enjoyed so much.

Harold is Postmaster at Union Bay, B.C. Harold married Eve during the war, they have two boys and two girls, Hal, Russell, Diane and Julie.

Rosemary married Gerry Fisher and they live in Maple Ridge, B.C. She has two step-children, Blair and Wendy.

I (Dorothy) married Wallace Conrad near Clairmont, in the 'Peace Country.' We have three boys, Richard, Douglas and Brian.

William Durand

Taken from "Fifty Years on the Coulee Rim"

One of our earliest homesteaders in the Seven Nations district was William Durand who was born in 1870 in Wisconsin of French parents. Mr. Durand married Almira Sharkey. There are three children: Emil; Walter of Donalda and Delta.

Like most other homesteaders, Mr. Durand worked hard, and the results were usually gratifying. There were disappointments as in the winter of 1919-1920. This was a bad year, with very cold weather, lots of snow and very little feed for cattle.

Mr. Durand had one cow when he started farming in 1907. By the fall of 1919 he had raised a herd of 51 cattle. As the months passed, he realized that he would not have enough feed to see them through the winter. He sold 11 head and bought hay for the rest of the cattle, paying \$80 a ton for it so there was a limit to the amount he could afford. The hay was rationed out and cattle that were in very good shape in the early fall gradually became weak and began dying, one after the other. By the spring of 1920 only one cow had survived; Mr. Durand was back where he started twelve years before.

Mr. Durand's son Walter, was 15 years old at this time and remembers this heartbreaking experience.

Walter Durand has lived in the Seven Nations district longer than anyone else. He was three years old when he came from Wisconsin with his parents. Emil Durand as the result of an injury, was an invalid, confined to a wheelchair for many years. Walter farmed his father's homestead until he retired. At that time he sold the farm to Donald Lee but reserved an acreage around the house where he still lives.

Graffunder and Pierson

by Gordon Pierson

Grandpa was born in Berlin, Germany and passed away in June of 1940. He was about 87 years old. Grandma was born in Dusseldorf, Germany.

Whether they met in Germany or in Wisconsin I don't know. They lived in Wisconsin a little while, then moved to Walla Walla, Washington on the west coast and ran a restaurant before moving to Alberta, settling at Ferintosh in 1894.

Just when he moved to Meeting Creek, I don't know. I remember Grandma telling me they planted potatoes at Beaver Lake. They didn't even sprout so they dug them up in the fall for food. Grandpa also was mowing hay in Beaver Lake as it was dry. It started to rain and he never did get his mower out. It is still out there. Someone dragging the lake about three years ago, found the mower and something else, (some oil outfit). I also remember my Dad, Mr. Charlie Pierson, Graffunder's son-in-law saying he was going to Meeting Creek to help Grandpa hay. He hobbled the two horses but they broke loose and went back to Red Deer Lake.

Grandpa also broke his leg, and grandma set it. It healed, although it was a little bit crooked.

Grandma also raised a lot of geese and ducks as there was a big slough behind the barn on the farm between Donalda and Meeting Creek.

Albert and Alma still farm at Ferintosh with their son Gordon. Grandma passed away in Stettler in May 1925.



Mr. and Mrs. Graffunder in center with daughter Alma and Albert Pierson 1923.

Esten (Ed) Olson Hagen and Family

Esten was born in Loms Prestigjeld, Norway, August 16, 1867.

Johanna Marie Olson was born October 16, 1873 at Breiskallen, Norway. They were married at Wardal, Norway. Their first born was Thorvald (Ole) August 17, 1894. The second son, Marcus, was born September 3, 1898.

On March 2nd, 1905 Esten emigrated to America by way of the "Stavenger" boat, coming to Moorehead, Minnesota. There he worked for a time in a lumber camp. He became lonely for his family back home so he immediately sent for them. They arrived the 30th of April the same year. The following year they came to the Doreenlee district where her brother, Martin Dahl's family resided. They stayed there until 1907 when they moved to Camrose where he did carpenter work and she had the "Farmer's Inn", a boarding house. While in Camrose Ed walked to south of Meeting Creek to locate land. He chose the N.W. ¼-16-42-19-W4 so he had to walk to Ponoka to file, with another fellow whose name we can't recall. While they were walking Ed had to wait for this man whose feet were getting so sore he had to walk on his toes. They stayed at Ponoka overnight and in the morning started on their way back to Camrose. On May 15, 1907 he received the receipt of ten dollars, being the office fee for homestead entry. His third son, Elmer still has this receipt as a keepsake. During the weekends Ed would walk from his work in Camrose to his homestead to put up a shack in order to prove his homestead, then back again on Sunday evening.

While he was working in Camrose a fellow wanted him to do some carpenter work. This fellow didn't have any money but he had a coyote hound he would trade. Ed accepted. Later another fellow wanted the hound and offered a horse in exchange, which Ed gladly accepted, as he knew Oscar Oberg at Meeting Creek who had two horses and who might be in need of another one. Ed made a deal with Oscar to break ten acres for the horse.

In the meantime the family moved to the homestead where on May 26, 1910 their son Elmer was born. Mrs. Isreal Oberg was the mid-wife in that area then. June 1, that year a late storm dumped over a foot of wet snow all over north-central Alberta so there was plenty of snow to melt to wash his diapers.

In 1909 Ed helped build the Buena Vista School and the Hazel Grove School. He received \$165.00 for building the Buena Vista School and barn and outhouses.

The nearest post office and store was to the north west by the name of Edensville, where Mrs. Hagen

would trade the butter that she had churned, for some groceries. Travel was done by buggy and horses.

A C.P.R. quarter, was bought by Willie Melin who had a large family. They had twin sons and about the year 1923 or 24 one of them died at the age of seven or eight years. They had Ed make a coffin with a glass top and Mrs. Hagen lined the inside with satin.

The nearest neighbours were Martin Dahl to the west, Victor Johnson, the next quarter to the east, and John Lawson on the quarter north.

Ed passed away July 3rd, 1954 and Johanna Marie on April 30, 1952. Thorvald (Ole) passed away October 27, 1969 and Marcus in April, 1974.

Elmer resides on the homestead. He married Louise Vigen from Lake Thelma, near Fleet, and there are two children; Joyce Marie, born March 12, 1943 and Melvin Elmer born May 5, 1947, both at Stettler Municipal Hospital.

Joyce married Phillip Lucien Racine on September 10, 1965 in Edmonton. They have three children; Shaan-Lee Marie, born September 1, at Edmonton, Cindy-Lou Joyce, born December 28, 1968 at Bashaw, and Lorrie-Ann Lynn, born September 20, 1970 at Edmonton. They are presently residing near Tofield.

Melvin married Melody Lynn Elsner of the Lake Bend District on August 28, 1971. Their children are: Rhonda Lynn, born May 11, 1974 at Red Deer, and twin sons, Jared Melvin and Jason Lawrence born April 14, 1976 at Bashaw.

Elmer and Louise live on Elmer's father's homestead, but Melvin has taken over the farming operation. Thus three generations have farmed the same land.

Marcus Hagen Family

by Agnes Hagen

We farmed a short time in the late twenties west of Donald, then decided to go to Buck Lake and Alder Flats and go homesteading. We were there five and a half years. I remember it was a struggle but people there were mostly homesteaders and very friendly. I have often wished we had stayed there.

We have three children; Helen, Jean and Faye. Helen married Les Damberger and they live on their farm south-west of Donald. They have six children and six grandchildren. Les is a County Councillor and Deputy Reeve.

Our second daughter Jean married Allan Lawrie and lived in Mirror for a few years. Allan was an engineer for the Canadian National Railway. He passed away and Jean moved to Bashaw seven years ago.

Our youngest daughter Faye married Bob Chaplin and lives at Surrey, British Columbia. Bob is a foreman on the waterfront. They have four children.

Marcus and I bought a house in Bashaw in April, 1973 and moved from the farm west of Donalda that fall. Marcus passed away in April, 1974.

Holmquist Family

by Hulda Holmquist

Mr. Gustaf Alfred Holmquist left Sweden on September first, 1914 for the promised land, namely Alberta, to try and make a better life for himself and his family. He liked what he saw so he sent for his wife and two children to join him as soon as possible. What little he had in Sweden was disposed of and his wife Maria, Victor and Hulda left from Sweden and arrived in Meeting Creek on December 9th, 1914, on a stormy day. They were met by Charlie Melin, one of their neighbors and were transported by team and cutter to the home of Mrs. Holmquist's brother Victor Johnson, who was then a widower with one son Elis Johnson. We made our home with them for the first two years.

Then we bought our own farm where we moved on October 20, 1916. When we arrived in Meeting Creek, Victor was six years old and Hulda was not quite two. Mrs. Holmquist was twenty-five and Mr. Holmquist thirty-five.

The conditions during those early days were tough but Mr. Holmquist was a hard working man. He cut brush and dug ditches for neighbors, and was sometimes given a heifer calf as payment. That was how we got our start in milk cows which in the future was our main source of income. Mrs. Holmquist

looked after the cows, her children and home, (a single room shack ten feet by twelve feet) but we were happy. We missed the era of farming with oxen as power, it was horses and sulkey plow that we used. Everybody was bucked off more than once when you hit a rock, which we had in abundance. Farming was the only occupation. There was the odd carpenter or blacksmith, as no papers were needed to drive a nail or pound out a plow share. Our main source of food was prairie chicken, rabbits and later we had beef and pork as well as some mutton and good old spuds of course.

Clothing was home made, socks were made from home spun yarn. Our only way of travelling was horses and wagon, sleighs and later came the democrat. Then came the era of the 'Bennet Buggy' which in most cases turned out to be a mini wagon, and when tires wore out you had nothing but four steel wheels. Then came Ford cars and other makes which gave more trouble than you could shake a stick at. Many a blister was developed from cranking and trying to start them in the spring. Winter driving with cars was almost impossible.

Our school was Hazel Grove to which we toddled off every morning bundled up by our Mom. When the weather was cold it was very cold in the school with many an ink bottle exploding when set on the stove to be thawed out. The ceiling above the stove was blue with ink.

Our only church at that time was the Lutheran Church which was located in Meeting Creek. Two Ministers I remembered are Rev. Eklund and Rev. Grundburg, of course there were many others.

Medical facilities were scant as well. We had Dr. McLeod, who lived in Ferintosh. His means of getting around was a team of horses and later a car. He saved many a life during the 'flu epidemic of 1918-19. Then Dr. Jackson in Donalda, who was also a country doctor came. Later we had Dr. Kennedy in Stettler who was a surgeon and Dr. Nordbye in Camrose.

Our neighbors were Lawsons to the east, Hagens and Dahls to the south, Melins, Bergstroms and Strebergs to the west. The Fred Andersons and the Obergs to the northwest and Tellmans on the north.

Notable events were when my brother Folke was delivered on a cold Valentines day by mid-wife, Grandma Oberg in 1919 and Ervin Holmquist on May 16, 1933. Our Dad was called home on August 24, 1939 and brother Victor on February 5, 1977.

Our greatest tragedy was in 1934 when fire just about gutted our home. Dad was quite badly burned, but there were no other injuries. We were taken to our good neighbors the Lawsons, where we were given a



Celebrates 90th Birthday — Mrs. Holmquist celebrated her 90th birthday in Kennedy Auxiliary Hospital Thursday, June 7. Standing are her son, Folke Holmquist, and his wife, Helen, Stettler, and seated with her are her daughter, Greta and her husband, Gusta Hector, of Sweden
Mrs. Holmquist 90th birthday (newspaper clipping).

breakfast fit for a king, and our neighbors also helped with the summerfallow.

I recall Dad met a fine young gentleman who introduced himself and said "I am working for the Government". Dad coming home from the field hungry and dirty said in his broken English "Me too work for Government". "May I ask what you do?" asked the stranger. Dad replied "Me bought land from Government and am still trying to pay for it". The gentleman smiled and walked away.

My brother Folke married Helen McKay on December 10, 1945. They lived just north of our home place. We are all retired now. Ervin and Hulda live in Bashaw, Folke and Helen live in Stettler.

Mrs. Holmquist is a patient in the Dr. Kennedy Auxiliary Hospital in Stettler. She was 90 years old in June 1979.

Mardon Ranch

by Jock Lawson

My father, John Lawson, had a younger brother, Adams, who was somewhat of a drifter but finally settled down in St. Paul, Minnesota. On one of his ramblings, I don't know when, he bought up land on spec for my father and his other brother, Uncle Alex. He purchased $\frac{1}{2}$ of section 19 near Hazel Grove School and, for my father, $\frac{3}{4}$ of section 21, $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 22, 1 section 27 and $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 31 just north of Maggie and Annie Laurie's farm. My Dad was working for the Canadian Copper Co. with offices, mines and smelters around Coppercliff, Ontario. I don't suppose, at that time, that he ever intended to move West. At any rate, in 1912 he sent my elder brothers, Earnest and Lawrence, out to develop all of this raw land.

In 1913, on my holidays from McGill University, I went out to spend the summer. The house and some outbuildings had been erected and considerable fencing and some ploughing done. We had quite a herd of cattle at that time and I remember spending a lot of my time in the saddle. During the following summer holidays, when I went out the second time, my family had all moved out. Dad had retired, due to his health, after serving as Mine Captain, Mining Superintendent, General Superintendent and finally President of Canadian Copper Co., a subsidiary of Inco and finally absorbed into one Inco Company. He was President only a short time before having to retire.

I remember one feature of the Ranch was a huge tractor called a Rumely 60 Oil Pull — almost as big as a locomotive. Drive wheels were six feet or more in diameter with treads about two and a half feet across. To start, it was primed with gasoline and, when warmed up, switched over to kerosene. What a

brute it was! On cold mornings, we would light a fire under it to warm up the lubrication. As I remember, it pulled twelve shares in stubble and ten in sod. One of my brothers would drive the tractor and I handled the plows, lift a whole row of levers to let the shares down and slam them all up at the end of the field. I lost my watch in this operation one day. Had it in the breast pocket of my overalls, tied with a shoe lace. The lace broke or became untied and my watch was buried somewhere in a furrow. I thought a lot of that watch, too, because it had been given to me by my Mum and Dad when I first went away to University. But, wonder of wonders, it was ploughed up two years later by Hank Anderson, who was working for us at that time. The hands and springs had been rusted, but I had these renewed and used the watch for some years after.

Returning to the tractor — it would occasionally get stuck in some soft spot. The only way to get it out was by winding a rope around the big fly-wheel (about three feet in diameter and eight or ten inches thick) then put a team of horses on the other end of the rope. As they pulled, the gears were slowly put into motion and the tractor would move out.

One day Lawrence and I had been ploughing, having driven down to one of the fields on section 27 with horse and buggy. We had had our lunch and were taking a little rest at the foot of a haystack, when Lawrence suddenly jumped up yelling and grabbing his back. A small snake had crawled down his neck and bitten him in the back. Well, we drove hell bent for leather home and took Lawrence by car to a doctor in Donalda who cauterized the bite and apparently stopped the poison, although this bite continued to bother Lal on cold days.

Our nearest neighbours at this time were the Ed Hagens, O. M. and Fred Andersons, Holmquists, Bergstroms, Greens, Strebergs, Martin Dahls. The only occupied farms between our house and Meeting



Mr. and Mrs. John Lawson's fiftieth wedding anniversary at Mardon Ranch, with Don and Margaret in 1938.

Creek were the Albert Pearsons (later Maggie and Annie Lawries), Albert Telmans and Nystroms. Meeting Creek consisted of a hotel, Petersen's Store, a Post Office, a Chinese restaurant, a livery stable, hardware store, barber shop, dance hall and a Patent Medicine Store run by a German, George Brandt. I may have more to say about him later. I am not sure whether there were one or two elevators. Oh yes, we had a lumber yard too. Between the ranch and Donald, we took a road to the east of us on which I don't remember seeing one farm house.

Although the Ranch House was approximately one and one-half miles from Hazel Grove School, it appeared to have been traditional to have the school teachers board at the Ranch. Practically all of our neighbours were of Swedish or Norwegian descent and I must say we found them very neighbourly and we made many friends among them. But they thought, perhaps, that our Canadian teachers might feel more at home with us. One was Mae Seigle, who married my Uncle Adams Lawson after one of his visits to the Ranch, and they went to live in St. Paul, Minnesota. If I remember correctly, she was followed by Ann Gillespie who wanted to be married before the end of her contract and persuaded my wife, Bubs Hughes, then in Edmonton, to come down and teach the remainder of her term. This, by some act of fate, resulted in my eventually marrying the new school teacher on April 5th, 1917. My brother Lawrence had previously married Dorothy Sherman from Red Wing, Minnesota. She had visited the Ranch one summer in company with my cousin, Margaret Weston, also from Red Wing. Unfortunately, I believe Dorothy did not find life on the Ranch as romantic as she thought she might, and in about a year's time, she and Lawrence returned to Copper Cliff, where Lal worked as a foreman on one of the shifts in one of the furnace buildings. This proved unfortunate for him because he became badly gassed and from then on was a semi-invalid for the rest of his life. After the death of his wife Dorothy, Lal came to Donald to live with my sister, Margaret in the summer months, until the end of his days.

After I had spent two summers on the Ranch, I liked the life so much, I decided I was not going back to McGill. For two winter terms after that, I took courses in Agriculture at the Vermilion Agricultural College and spent one summer working at the Lacombe Agricultural Station. It was in the fall of that year that I first met my wife, Helen (Bubs) Hughes. We went to live in a little house very close to the Ranch House, which we called "The Shack;" with bedroom, living room and kitchen.

Coming back to my wife's school teaching days;

she rode to school along with my sister Margaret and younger brother Donald. "Miss Hughes" rode my old saddle horse, Baldy, who could be the laziest horse that ever followed a trail. But, if another horse ran up beside him, he would be off like a shot, determined not to be outdone in a race. Now, Bubs was quite used to driving horses (Her father always had one or more Standard Breds) but she was not accustomed to riding. On the way to school, my mischievous brother, Donald, would come tearing up alongside Baldy and away they would go flying with Bubs arriving at school with hair flying in general disarray and, no doubt, some saddle sores; much to the delight of Donald, but with deep regrets by Margaret.

Our first house guest at "The Shack" was a friend of Bubs, Agnes Wilson from Edmonton. Of course, we gave her our bedroom to sleep in, while we holed up on a pullout couch in the living room. We were awakened by screams from the bedroom in the morning and, flinging the door open, found Agnes perched on top of the dresser and babbling something about a mouse in the bed that had been nibbling at her kid curlers. I rushed to the living room, grabbed a poker and threw back the bed clothes. Sure enough, there was a mouse in the middle of the bed which I dispelled with one well-aimed swat. Agnes was a bit nervous about going to bed after that, but we assured her there were no more mice about that we knew of.

Late in May, Dad and I were attending a bull sale at Lacombe when I got a hurry-up call to go to Edmonton. Bubs had gone up previously to stay with her sister, Mrs. W. V. Newson (Mame) to wait to get into a maternity home for the arrival of our first baby. I got there in plenty of time and we waited for a couple of days before our son, Sandy, arrived on May 30, 1918.

It was in the fall of the year after this that Bubs again went to Prince Edward Island and I went to Edmonton to work with the Audit Department of the provincial government. That winter the Spanish flu became rampant. On my way to Edmonton, they took two passengers off the train at Camrose to be rushed to hospital. I was staying with Mame in Edmonton when I came down with it and was away from work for two weeks or so. I guess I was pretty sick, because I can't remember anything about three or four days of that period. Edmonton was hard hit with ambulances going in one direction and hearses in the other.

It was that winter that Dad took a notion to buy a farm, one and one half sections, just north of John Hagen's farm, northwest of Meeting Creek, with a

fairly hefty mortgage on it. I didn't think that I was capable of handling this acreage and sold one section to my brother-in-law, W. V. Newson, and kept a half section with one hundred acres or so under cultivation but no building. That spring, I put in a crop and got Ed Hagen to help me build a three room cottage. Later, I erected a shed-barn practically alone but with some help from Bubs. I also erected a henhouse and hog pen built with poles and straw. Sandy enjoyed himself thoroughly playing with the ground squirrels and our old sow which we called Liza Jane.

In June, 1921, Bubs had to go to a maternity home in Stettler to await the arrival of our second child, Helen (Gummy). Bubs can describe the home much better than I can. Gummy arrived on June 19th and in the meantime, I made some trips to see Bubs. I would ride from my farm to the Ranch (eight miles) on Dennis, a great little horse, though no cow pony. He would head out on a dead run as soon as you hit the saddle and not let up until we arrived at the Ranch. From there a couple of us would drive by car to Stettler. By the way, our first car was a Model T Ford, a very useful car at that time. A lower slung car would most probably get hung up on the sod between the tracks of the trails and at that time we were obliged to travel more trails than roads.

Eventually, with our family increasing, we moved to another larger house on the Ranch where Lawrence used to live and from where I hoped I would be able to crop my own farm as well as give a hand on the Ranch. Boy, was that house ever cold! We would bank the kitchen stove with coal in the morning. The kids ran around in winter with heavy socks and moccasins. I recall in our previous house though, that we would wake up in the mornings with frost on our eyebrows and front hair. (I had some at that time!)

In the fall of 1922, Bubs and our two kids made another trip to Prince Edward Island and on Novem-

ber 25th, our third child Annabelle (Flea) was born in the Prince Edward Island Hospital. Eventually my family returned home. Bubs had quite a story to tell about that trip with three children. Her car was half filled with Chinese people, all loaded down with baskets of food. They made a great fuss over Bubs and the children, sharing much of the food from their baskets and practically babysitting the kids.

Bubs' Dad, Pop Hughes, was very anxious for us all to move to Prince Edward Island and certain promises were made to work me into his rather profitable drug business. Rather against my will, I consented to the move. Bubs preceded me to Prince Edward Island. I had a sale of some of our furniture, livestock and machinery and followed with a carload of horses to be sold down East. On July 28, 1925, our third daughter, Margaret (Markie) was born. We lived consecutively in two rented houses but eventually moved into the Hughes home, where we were able to look after Bubs' Mom and Dad until the times of their deaths. (Note: the drugstore deal didn't work out, but that's another story.)

When living out West I must say we had some rare, old dances in Meeting Creek in the hall at the back of Sig Bergstrom's Barber Shop. I remember Dr. Conn, who attended the arrival of Sandy and had also done some work for Mother and Dad, had come to the Ranch for a visit and we took him to one of the dances. We got a great kick out of watching him dance with Mrs. Molar. She was the wife of one of the members of Molar's Orchestra. At any rate, she was quite a big woman. I don't know which dance they were doing but Dr. Conn's feet hardly ever touched the floor. I do know that whenever Bubs was dancing the Swedish Polka with Harvey Anderson or Jake Telman, her feet never touched the floor.

Bubs and I went to one dance on a cold night. We parked Sandy, just a baby, with Mr. and Mrs. Nelson who kept the Post Office. After the dance, I brought around the team which had been standing with blankets on and were, I guess, pretty cold and raring to go. I pulled up to the Post Office, Mrs. Nelson handed the well-bundled baby to Bubs, we pulled up the buffalo robe and took off. We hadn't gone a mile before Bubs said, "You'll have to pull up. This baby is squirming so much I can't hang onto him." Well, I finally got the horses stopped and she started to unwrap the kid to see what was the matter. What greeted her view? Two tiny little feet! She had been holding him upside down. We often kid Sandy and tell him that's how he happens to be as he is today.

I guess I could pretty nearly write a small book about horses, but I'll tell only some of the stories. During my first two summers on the Ranch, I spent a



At "Hearonemus Bay" on Buffalo Lake 1923. Ernest (Stub) Lawson, "Pal" and Ed. Grice, Jack Rod, Jim Dempsey and Jock Lawson.

good deal of time in the saddle — rain or shine — circling the district to see that none of the cattle had strayed away from our herd. If one was missing, I would circle further out to find the stray and return it. By the way, besides branding all our cattle, Dad had invented a way to identify them without having to go too close to them or take a look at the branded side. We would bob the long hair on the end of the tail and clip the short hair on the tail, just above the long hair. In other words, all of our range cattle had tails resembling tassels.

One Sunday morning, I rode down to the northeast corner of Section 27, across the railway tracks and taking in part of the coulee. This part of our land was not fenced and the cattle had access to the whole Meeting Creek Coulee. There I found a cow up to her belly in a patch of muskeg. Well, what a time I had, rolling her from one side to another and managing to bring one leg after another onto the surface. Then, with the help of Baldy and my rope, we were able to get her onto solid ground. I was pretty late for Sunday dinner that day and I guess the folks were on the point of sending out a search party.

Another time, Baldy and I rescued a yearling out of what seemed to have been a small cellar under a house, no longer there.

My Dad, at one time, traded a threshing outfit and the trade included, I think, sixteen horses with only about four of them broken to harness. It became the lot of Hank Anderson and me to break the rest and there were some mean horses in that lot. They would try to crowd you against the stall when you went alongside them and sometimes try to attack you with forefeet and teeth. We would start off by hitching them with a fairly heavy and good steady horse to a farm wagon, start them off and let them run until they tired to some extent and found out what the reins were meant for. We would do some wild riding around a pasture field until we were able to guide them back to the barnyard. I remember one grey mare which refused to start at first and just stood and tried to kick the front out of the wagon box. We had one particularly bad horse which, after we had driven him in the wagon a couple of times, we put in a four-horse team on a binder. When it was time to go home, we hitched a team to a low truck wagon and tied the other two behind, one of which was this black devil who tried to climb in the rear of the truck wagon to get at us. This horse was included in the carload which I took East. He was sold to a fellow who said he was buying him for a lumber camp. I never heard of him again, so I don't know whether they worked him or ate him.

One summer, in haying time, I earned the du-

bious distinction of having three runaways in three days. I didn't get any medals for that. I won't go into details here.

One day, while we were living on our farm north of Meeting Creek, one of my horses, Christie, a tall, lanky black took a bad attack of colic. I hadn't any efficient remedies on hand and in the evening he became increasingly worse. It was late in the evening that I said to Bubs, "You'll have to ride down to George Brandt's medicine store and get a bottle of colic cure. I can't leave this horse in this state." So, she rode down on old Baldy and roused old George, who came to the door in a long nightgown. When he saw Bubs at the door, he exclaimed, "Oh, Mrs. Lawson, Mrs. Lawson," and ran back into his bedroom to put on a pair of trousers and get her the colic cure. When she arrived back, I had got Christie onto his feet. I elevated his head but couldn't reach his mouth to administer the medicine. So, I jumped on Baldy's back so as to reach him and finally got the dose into him. It certainly worked wonders too, as Christie was almost back to normal the next morning. When we looked at the label we saw that it was "Hughes Colic Cure" a prescription concocted by Bubs' Dad, George E. Hughes, in Charlottetown. George E. was famous for his own remedies, and people all over Prince Edward Island would come to his store for prescriptions for their animals and for humans as well. In many ways, he was better at prescribing than most doctors and he made up a lot of his own remedies. This was before everything was sold in bottles and pills from organized drug companies.

Well, our old friend Hank Anderson eventually got married and went to live on a farm some miles south of the Ranch and my two elder brothers and two neighbour boys decided to chivaree Hank and his bride. This meant keeping them up and raising Cain, of course. On the way home in our Democrat, as our vehicle was called, one of the neighbour boys, who was working for us at the time, started shouting something. We couldn't understand at first but finally made out that he was saying, "Shtop, shtop, I losht my teesh." Apparently he had been sick over the side of the Democrat. Well, we stopped but didn't go back to look for the "teesh". However, we made a note of where we had stopped. Next morning, his brother went out and found the "teesh" and came down to the Ranch with the "teesh" in one hand and a four inch spike in the other to fasten them in.

Another incident of note was when a big old sow escaped and we were trying to herd her back into the gate of the pig pen. This was midway in an alley with feed barn, fence and cow barn on one side and engine

house, granary and machine shed on the other. Well, the old sow got past the gate again when Auntie Osborne, as we called her, suddenly appeared at the other end of the alley, waving her arms and trying to stop the sow. But there was no stopping her. She made straight for Auntie — right between her legs and Auntie was literally on the pig's back for a few yards before she finally fell off, fortunately unhurt, except for her dignity. She didn't think it was funny at the time, but would laugh with the rest of us when we recounted the incident later. I might say that Auntie was my mother's elder sister. She was a good practical nurse but elected to join our family while we were still living in Copper Cliff. She was really devoted to her nephews and niece and, looking back, I think she really spoiled us, as she was always trying to do so much for us — lots of little things which we should have been doing for ourselves.

When we moved to the West, of course, we did not have a radio, television or even a telephone. We were too far away from a telephone line to be connected up. What we did have, which was unusual to the district, was a gas engine, generator and bank of batteries in the cellar, which provided us with electric lights. Another unusual luxury was indoor plumbing. Water for this was pumped from a well in the basement to a large gravity tank in the attic. We also had a piano as Bubs was very good at playing and had a very good voice (she specialized in Music at Mt. Allison University and took vocal training in New York one year), we used to have some good sing-songs around the piano. Added accompaniment was often provided by Lawrence and Margaret playing mandolins and Earnest and Donald on the snare drum and a kazoo on the end of the old gramophone horn. I remember one night Bubs was playing and singing a song that went "Sing me to sleep, the shadows fall" etc. when the old cat from the kitchen came in and squatted by the piano and started to yowl. The louder Bubs sang, the louder the old cat would yowl. We all got a great laugh out of that.

Speaking of entertainment, we put on a concert in Sig Bergstrom's hall one night, originally planned by the Lawsons, I guess. I can't remember all of the numbers now, but I know my brother Earnest and I sang about a sailor that had been wrecked on a South Sea Island. The last part of the chorus went something like this, "I've been wrecked in plenty of wrecks out on the stormy sea. But, by heck, there never was a wreck like the wreck she made of me. For all she wore was a great Bimbo smile, my little Bimbo down on the Bamboo Isle." I heard, afterwards, that one middle-aged couple were greatly shocked and I don't know if they stayed to the end of

the concert or not. How our social attitudes have changed since then, when we consider that we see and hear over our televisions today.

No doubt, some of the old-timers will remember some of the hardships endured in and about the thirties when prime steers, live weight, sold for about four cents per pound, live hogs at five or six cents per pound. I have sold wheat at fifty cents per bushel and oats at fifteen cents per bushel. Cream sold, as I remember, at about thirty cents per pound butterfat. Most of my grain crop went to pay mortgage interest and we lived on sale of cream and what small amount of livestock we had for sale.

One year, when the threshing outfit came in, I still had forty acres of oats in stook, not ready to thresh. The man in charge of the outfit promised to come back later to finish threshing my oats. But before he returned, we had a whale of a snowstorm which left my forty acres of stooks completely covered with snow. I sold an old cattleman thirty acres at what was then a reasonable price and kept ten acres for myself to use for feed for my stock. Every few days, I would drive down to the field and bring in a load of bundles, which had to be shovelled out of the snow and the butts cut off at the bottom as they were frozen to the earth. The prairie chickens had discovered the tops of my stooks and used to come and feed off of them. I usually took a gun with me and would knock off two or three prairie chickens before they got wise and flew away. Our main meat diet that winter was prairie chicken — "chookies" my young son used to call them. Speaking of hunting, when I was still on the Ranch and Alf Tremlett was working for us, we would watch all week on our way to the fields, where the ducks were mostly feeding. Then on a Sunday morning, Alf and I would go out before sunrise and build a couple of blinds with bundles, if they were still in the field or a few willow branches if the threshing had been done. It was not unusual for us to return after one hour's shooting with about a dozen ducks each. Alf had a good dog at retrieving and I had one of her pups who was learning the art.

Marius Petersen of Peterson Bros. Store was the first in the community to have a radio set. It was a crystal set with earphones. We occasionally dropped in on a Saturday night to hear how the Edmonton Eskimos were getting on with their hockey games.

This chronicle would not be complete if I did not add that, at that time, Meeting Creek had a baseball team. There was no league, but every Sunday afternoon, in season, and weather permitting, we would be playing Donalda, Edberg and, I think, occasionally Daysland and Bashaw.

The drinking water in the village of Meeting

Creek was very alkaline. Peterson Bros. had a well drilled and, as I remember, struck some natural gas. This makes me wonder that more exploration has not been done in the Creek Valley, when you consider all the wells operating in Drumheller and Leduc.

Seth Johanson

The Seth Johanson family came to the Seven Nations area in the spring of 1932 and settled on S.W. 27-42-19-w4. Members of the family were; Seth and Hilda, four sons John, Hildebrand, Arne and Kenneth, and three daughters Ranghild, Anna and Audrey.

Coming to the Meeting Creek area in 1924, Seth rented land from Charlie Melin, being about one-half mile east and four miles south of Meeting Creek, then buying five quarters from John Lawson moving to the land in April 1932.

Brushing and breaking land was a yearly event as much of the land stood covered with brush. The brush was cut with the axe in the winter, and pulling stumps and breaking in summer, until most of the land was under cultivation. A 15-30 International tractor and a twenty-two inch breaking plow was an important combination, plus many days of root picking by hand to get each twenty-five acre field ready to be farmed.

A threshing machine was purchased from John Lawson. The body of this machine was made of wood and needed repairing often after each move. Finally it upset and a new one had to be purchased, no more wooden ones. It was an Advance Rumely with a metal body, and really quite modern for those times.

Seth was a man never to say a swear word but one day while threshing, Anton Johnson, who was the field pitcher, saw a small tree close to the blower belt on the machine so he decided to cut it away, striking the belt with the axe. It broke and wrapped around the drive pulley, making an awful noise, scaring the



Seth and Hilda Johanson with children Audrey and Ken.



Seth and Hilda Johanson's 35th anniversary. Arne, Zelma, David, John, Marcella, Evelyn, Hil, Ruby, Betty Lou, Stewart, Dianne, Ragnild, Oliver, Anita, Stan, Seth and Hilda, Audry and Ken.

bundle teams away from the machine. When all the dust settled, Seth walked up to Anton and said "What in Hell you do that for?" This story was told many a fall at the supper table by the threshing crew.

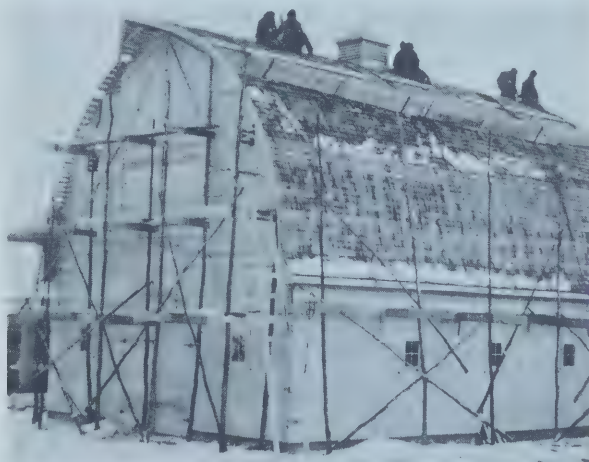
John, the eldest son bought the east half of 19-42-19-w4 in 1936 and moved there to farm. He remained there until he retired to Sherwood Park in 1968, passing away in 1976.

Ranghild married Oliver Bergstrom and they farmed a half mile south of John until they retired to Camrose where Oliver passed away in 1976.

Hildebrand worked in Ponoka, returning to farm the Charlie Melen place for a few years, then moved to British Columbia also spending sixteen years in the United States returning to Mission, British Columbia to retire.

Anna married Walter Sehlstrom and farms in the Seven Nations area.

Arne left for the services in 1941 returning to be an elevator agent for Alberta Pacific in Meeting



Building Seth Johanson's barn November 1938. Hilding Adamson, Bert Johnson, John Johanson, Palmer Nordvie, Arne Johanson, Claus Johnson.

Creek. Owning a restaurant which his wife Zelma helped operate, then on to Donalda to the John Deere shop and on to Stettler where they still reside.

Audrey married Melvin Lindberg and farmed on the Stolee place north of Donalda, then moved to Camrose.

Kenneth remains on the family farm which he purchased in 1950.

Bert and Judith Johnson

by Melvie Savage

To write a biographical sketch of your parents is to revisit your youth through shared memories of your family.

Dad, christened Johan Berthold Johansson, the youngest of a family of seven, left his native village of Hornmyr in northern Sweden where his ancestors had lived for two hundred years, at the age of eighteen to visit Canada.

He came to Meeting Creek in 1914 and made his temporary home with his maternal aunt, Mrs. Herman Lidberg. In this district in 1922 he met and married Judith Sikstrom, who at the age of one year had immigrated to Canada with her folks from a village near Hornmyr.

They settled in the Seven Nations district five miles west of Donalda and in 1929 moved onto the home quarter, where Mickey Johnson now lives.

The rigors of those early years on the prairies, common to many, are well documented.



Aunt Judith, Lage, Sylvia, Bert Johnson, Ole Stenlund, Viva, Norma, Melvin, Evy, Ruby.

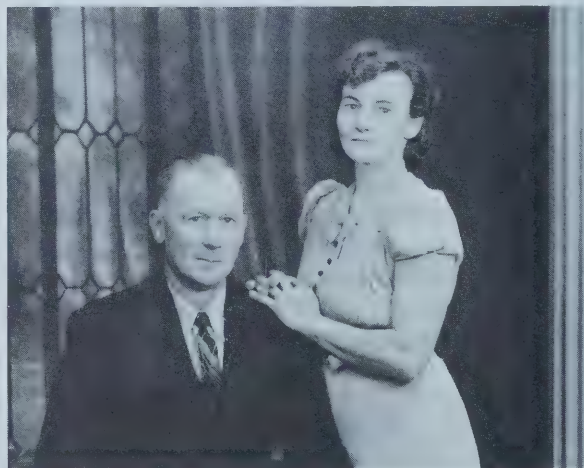
Through the depression years, Dad, with his training as a carpenter, supplemented the farm income. Farming was never his forte, but it was dear to the heart of Mom, who with her perseverance and resourcefulness, kept the home fires burning, and together they successfully supplied their growing family with all the basic needs.

Their family had indeed grown, by 1938 we were six in number; Lage, Sylvia, Norma, Melvie, Milton (Mickey), and Marvin.

Dad left a proud legacy through his craftsmanship evidenced by the many buildings and homes he helped to build, and to us children with his quiet humour and wonderful wit, it's a loving memory.

In 1942, he moved the younger part of the family to Cadomin, Alberta where we lived in that mountain town until 1948. We then returned to the farm where they lived until his untimely death in 1953.

Contributions by people with their diverse talents are made in many ways. The great sharing that our parents practiced by opening their home to anyone in need of food or shelter was a constant lesson in Christian loving and living. Entertainment was mostly home centred and many hours were spent listening to Mom retell the embellished stories of her youth and ours. They passed on many skills, and attitudes, but the two I cherish the most, are resourcefulness and integrity in its true moral sense.



Bert and Judith Johnson.

Mickey (Milton) Johnson married June Olson in 1956. They now live on Bert Johnson's home place. Of this marriage, four children were born; Jay, Nels, Michelle and Veronica.

Sylvia married Lloyd Hunter of Meeting Creek. Norma married Ted Oberg of Meeting Creek.

Lage married Alma Anderson and now lives in Spruce Grove.

Melvie married Alf Savage and now lives in Winnipeg.

Marvin married Dorothy Winfield and lives in Calgary.

Mrs. Judith Johnson is now living at the Bethany Home in Camrose at the age of seventy-eight and is still quite active.

Richard Johnson

Richard Johnson was born in the United States in 1891 and came to the Ferry Point district with his Mother and step-father in 1901.

In 1914, Richard came to Donalda and homesteaded the land which is now farmed by Rod Donald. He built a large house with the help of his step-father Nels Westlund, father of Wally Westlund. This house is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald.

Astrid Rider remembers watering the trees that Richard planted when she was very small. Her family, the Hammarbergs, were neighbors of Richard Johnson.

Richard lived on the farm for thirteen years, and then moved to Meeting Creek where he was married. Later, he and his wife Alice moved to Camrose. They had nine children. Richard worked for Byers Flour Mills for a number of years. He passed away in 1964.

Victor Johnson

Victor Johnson came from Sweden to the Seven Nations area to homestead about 1907 or 1908. He married Berta Oberg and they had one son Elis. Death soon claimed Berta the result of a dreaded prairie fire. So Victor, besides the usual hardships of homesteading, had a young son to raise. Homes were small, one or two rooms.

Oscar Johnson (no relative) and his brother Ole homesteaded the quarter south and the quarter directly west. Later Victor bought Oscar's, and Ole's is now owned by Lindstroms.

Elis as a young boy remembers two Sharkey brothers living on land that later became Anton Johnson's (Victor's brother) and the other Hilding Adamson's.

The old road between Meeting Creek and Donalda went by the house and there were many who stopped to visit, as more and more people came into the area.

Victor was much in demand to play the accordion for the many dances around the country. He farmed with his son until his death in 1947. Elis married Phyllis Heater and they had one son Arnold. In time he bought Hilding Adamson's land and they continued farming together until 1972 when the elder Johnsons sold to Lester Sehlstrom. In 1973 the Johnsons moved to Bashaw, Arnold renting his land, but

later sold to Harold Thomson in 1979. All the Johnsons are living in Bashaw at the present time.

Oliver Perry Moore

Mr. Moore came to Canada from the United States around 1900. He worked for sometime with the bridge crew of the Canadian National Railway. Later he worked in Edmonton, helping to landscape the Parliament grounds, and many old houses in the city. Mr. Moore became a naturalized citizen and filed on a homestead around 1907. In 1913 he married Clara Pfrimmer at Myrtle, Manitoba, and they came to live on his homestead at Donalda (the Alfred Badry farm). At this time, Mr. Moore would move from farm to farm grinding feed and sawing wood. Mrs. Moore's sister, Eva Pfrimmer, came to live with the family in 1914. She stayed for four years. Mr. and Mrs. Moore sold their farm in 1919, and along with their children moved to Manitoba. Mr. Moore passed away in 1940 and Mrs. Moore in 1964.

Wm. (Bill) C. Moul

William Claude Moul came to Donalda in 1919 after discharge from the the army, to manage the Revelstoke Lumber Yard.

In 1920 he married Helen Huber of Hurled, South Dakota, U.S.A. They had four daughters; Marion — Mrs. Eichhorn of Salmon Arm, B.C.; Margaret — Mrs. Gazzola of Langley, B.C.; Mildred — Mrs. Gaffney of Camrose and Myrna — Mrs. Lawes of Wetaskiwin.

Bill bought a half section farm, three and a half miles north west of Donalda and he moved his family



Mrs. Bill Moul in front of the Revelstoke Lumber Yard in 1920.



Bill Moul on main st. in front of Vikse's, 1947.



Bill Moul Family and Viva and Sadie Stenlund.

there in the spring of 1922. He sold this home place to Alfred Winters in 1958 and moved to Camrose.

In March of 1927 he bought the N.W. 7-43-18-w4, being one mile east of the home place for \$1,682.34. He sold this land to Ellis Lawes in 1955, who sold it to Alice McLellan in 1965.

The old barn and house were built by Bert Roberts, his carpenter tools being only a hammer and a hatchet.

Mrs. Moul died October 7, 1960 and Mr. Moul died July 7, 1962.

The Hjalmer Norman Family

Hjalmer Norman came to Canada October 28, 1928 from Vesterbotten, Sweden. He married Svea Oberg of Meeting Creek in 1934.

Hjalmer and Svea settled on the N.E. 1/4 23-42-19-w4 in Donalda in the area known as the Seven Nations Community, north-west of Donalda in the year of 1938. Their daughter, Leona was then three years of age.

They rented Svea's father's land (Ed Oberg) for the next two years until they bought their own quarter of land. Marlene was born at Michelson's Nursing home in 1941 and son Allan was born in Stettler Hospital in 1945.

In 1967 they sold the home farm to Larry Steeves of Meeting Creek and later moved into Donalda Village to retire where they still reside.

Daughter Leona is married to Don Schmitz of Drumheller and they have two children; Carol and Bruce. Don was employed by Canadian Utilities (now known as Alberta Power) at the time they were married.

Marlene married James West of Lions Head, Ontario in 1958. She was employed at Imperial Bank of Commerce in Donalda at this time. She is now employed at the Royal Bank at Warton, Ontario and lives at Hepworth, Ontario. They have two daughters, Linda and Laurie.

Allan was born in 1945 at Stettler Municipal Hospital. He married Lois Temple in 1966. Presently they live at Grande Prairie where he is District Operations Manager of Dresser Atlas Division, Dresser Industries Inc. They have two children, Carrie and Darren.

For the first year or two on their own farm, Hjalmer and Svea had no phone, car or means of transportation so they could not go to town as often as they would like. That's when Barno, the faithful family dog of Ed Oberg's helped them out. He came to their farm home from the Oberg home every Wednesday night and stayed with them till Friday or

Saturday to rest if it was cold weather. This was a distance of about seven miles.

The Obergs made a little mail pouch for his collar and in this pouch they sent their messages back and forth with the dog. Barno carried grocery orders, mail, patterns, and even garden seeds. Barno would indicate it was time to go visit Svea and Hjalmer by getting restless and looking out the windows. Then it was time to write the note to send back and forth. This is how Svea ordered her groceries which her parents would bring in their Model T Ford on the weekend.

One time Svea was cooking for threshers and had to stay alone in Holger Peterson's unoccupied house for the night. She wished she had Barno there for company. Much to her relief Barno appeared. How did he know that she was there? Barno kept up his faithful delivery service for at least two years winter or summer until the day he met a girl friend of his sort on the way. That evening Barno wouldn't go for Hjalmer's cows. He was much too tired!!! Hjalmer scolded him for this. Then Barno went home and never came back. That was the end of Barno's mail service. Their three children, Leona, Marlene, and Allan, were among the passengers on Ole Stenlunds school van during the years they attended Donalda School.

Sam Pearce **by Mrs. Sam Pearce**

We came to Canada in February of 1921 from Springfield, Mass., U.S.A.

When we got off the train I asked Sammie where the rest of the town was and he said at the end of the street but all I could see was a blacksmith shop and a livery barn and that was Meeting Creek.

The first summer we rented land and milk cows on shares from Mr. John Lawson and lived in the yard on what was called Mardon Ranch.

In the fall of 1921 we moved to Donalda and rented the Batke farm. It is now owned by Mr. Badry. There was no home on it so a house was pulled from Donalda and now the house is back in Donalda owned by Joe Tyrlik. Our nearest neighbor was Melvin Tucker and his mother, where the Badrys now live, and Frank Martin where Mr. Murdock lived.

Most evenings Melvin would come up to our house to play cards or chat. One night he came up and we were going to see Frank and his mother so Sammie told him to jump in the buggy and go with us. All went well until we got to the main road but the horse stopped and would not go up the road but wanted to go to town. After awhile Melvin said I will make her



Sammie and Kitty Pearce with daughters Elizabeth and Beatrice and hired man Frank Darby.

go so he jumped on the horses back and dug his heels in her sides and she just flew up the road. It was the fastest ride we ever had, with Sammie and I and the baby in the buggy and Melvin on the back of the horse.

Then one day I was going to town with the buggy and Sammie said when you get home let the horse out of the buggy and take the harness off. I got to town and home O.K. then I started to take the harness off. I unbuckled all the buckles I could see on the harness until the horse was free. It took Sam three hours to put the harness together again. After that he told me to just tie the horse up to a post. I never did learn to harness or unharness a horse.

Once we went to town in the buggy and were nearly home when the rim of the buggy rolled in the ditch. Sammie said he couldn't do much about it now so we went the rest of the way on the spokes. Needless to say when we got home we didn't have many spokes left and had to buy a new wheel. It was an awful ride.

One day I thought I would surprise Sammie with some smoked bacon. So I took two pieces that we had in brine and strung it on a string, got a ladder and climbed up on the roof and with an iron rod across the chimney so the bacon hung down, then I fired up the kitchen stove to make some smoke. But the heat melted the bacon and it fell down the chimney and stopped the draft and the stove started to smoke from every lid. So I had to shake the fire down in the ash pit. When Sammie came in from the field he had to take the stove pipes apart and fish out the bacon, which by this time was all black and dirty so we gave it to the chickens and I fried him some eggs for dinner without the bacon. It was a good job Sammie was good natured so he never got mad about it.

Sammie wore fleece lined underwear and one day in the winter I hung it out to bleach and during the

night Melvin Tucker's colt came up and chewed off one of the legs. So Sammie had to wear it with one leg shorter than the other for the rest of the winter.

Now 58 years later we are still farming and a lot wiser. We left Donalda in 1925 after the two girls were born, Elizabeth and Beatrice, and moved to Meeting Creek on the Jock Lawson farm. In 1931 we bought the Charles Erickson farm and have been here ever since, which is 48 years. I think we did good both being from the city, I had never been on a farm before.

Walter Rochon

The Walter Rochon family came to the Seven Nations district in March of 1948 from the Science Mound district. Walter had bought the farm from Charlie Chapman. Walter was born at Rochon Sands



Walter, Ruth and Gordon Rochon 1944.

(on Buffalo Lake) in 1906. Rochon Sands was named after his grandfather Dan Rochon who operated a livery stable and a small grocery store. Walter went to work at Garden Plains, south of Castor, for Bill McCloud when he was fifteen. Ten years later he met and married Ruth Ekholm who's family lived on a farm at Garden Plain. Walter came to Donalda in 1934 where he worked all summer for Walter Anderson; Ruth and Gordon stayed with grandma Ekholm, Frank Anderson and Pete Ekholm.

Walter and Ruth and their son Gordon moved to the Donalda district that fall, and Walter worked for Bert Jones. Bert loaned Walter his one ton truck (a Graham Page) to move. In 1937 they rented the Keith Pickering farm. Walter and Ruth were active in community work. Walter was also a very good curler and enjoyed this sport. While living in the Seven Nations district, Walter helped Chris Lausen butcher. When Walter retired in 1970, he spent most of his time hunting and fishing. Gordie took over the farming. In 1975, Ruth and Walter moved to Bashaw.

In 1976 a tragic train accident took the lives of Walter and Ruth. Gordie still lives on the farm and he plays with the band called "Mr. Banjo and the Homesteaders".



Walter and Gordon Rochon with coyote 1940.

Olaf August and Lilly Mary Stenlund

Ole and Lilly are both of Scandinavian origin. Lilly came to Canada from Sweden with her folks and Ole arrived in Canada with a brother. He met and married Lilly Sikstrom in 1912. To this union six children were born. One son Harry passed away in infancy. Sadie who married Bert Anderson of Meeting Creek, now resides in Bashaw. Their family consists of two daughters, Shirley and Lucille, and two sons Dale and Rodney and thirteen grandchildren. Viva married Slim Murat of Donalda where they resided until her passing. Children of this couple are; Vivian, Betty, Joyce, Lilly Mae, Linda and



Stenlund Family — Dennis, Ruby, Ole, Mrs. Stenlund, Viva, Sadie and Evelyn.

Arthur. There are also twelve grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Ruby married Albin Bergstrom of Meeting Creek and they are still on the family farm. They have been blessed with three children; John, Judy and Carl. They also have four grandchildren.

Evelyn married Arnold Wagner and they are living in Edmonton with their two children Paula and Shelly.

Dennis married Victoria Olson and they are residing on the Stenlund farm just out of Donalda. They have three sons; Wayne, Craig and Richard.

After Ole and Lilly were married, they lived in the Edberg district for awhile; Ole helping Olaf Sikstrom work in the Edberg coalmine. Ole also had a cream route for the Meeting Creek creamery for quite awhile. The Stenlunds then moved to the Donalda district where they worked for the Lawsons on their farm. They then got homestead land S.W. 24-42-19-w4 where they farmed until 1925. Three of their children were born on this land. They then sold the homestead and bought land one half mile west S.E. 23-42-19-w4. They built a house on this land with the help of Bert Johnson and other friends. This house is still the main living quarters on the farm. Other buildings were also put to good use. Ole and Lilly were interested in planting trees and soon had a beautiful landscape consisting of ornamental evergreens, apple trees and many flower beds to enhance their farmstead. Lilly made all the clothes worn by their daughters and Dennis. She made many quilts, hooked rugs, knitted the stockings, and she also reupholstered furniture. She raised big gardens and



Stenlund school van with pupils: Jewell Tucker, Rosemary Chapman, June Tucker, Judy Bergstrom. Boys — Melvin Johnson, Mickey Johnson, Alvin Bergstrom.

preserved the vegetables for winter months, as well as jams, jellies and fruit from their apple trees, and the wild berries were also preserved for winter eating.

In early years Ole did his farming with an axe, grub hoe and single plow. As time went on the farming progressed he gained more land and bought newer machinery to aid in his farming.

Most of the travelling was done by horse and buggy. In due time Ole bought a Model 'T' Ford car. He had built a new garage for the car. What a joy when the car arrived home, everyone going out to watch Dad put the car in the new garage . . . what surprise when he didn't remember to step on the brakes to stop it, and went right through the back end of the garage!

They lived in the Seven Nations district, and schools were being built in all the adjoining districts but not in Seven Nations. Before this school was constructed, the consolidated school in Donalda was built and all the children from this district were taken there. Ole drove the school van for about forty years, starting with horses and a triple wagon with a tarp over the top. Then with a curtain sided van, with



Community gathering of those who had ridden in the Stenlund School Van.

horses for many years, through stormy weather and muddy roads. Ole used to say "In Alberta we had ten months of winter and two months of bad roads". Next, he drove his private car, a Buick, for there were only seven children on the route that year. He drove a panel bus for a number of years until the time of his retirement. In all the years as a bus driver he never had an accident. His son Dennis continued driving the school bus when Ole became seventy years of age and decided to retire. Dennis has been driving the bus for thirty years.

Donalda had doctors living in the town at times. There was Dr. Jackson in the '30's and Dr. Hodgson in the '40's. When Stenlunds lived down beside the

tracks, Viva got scarlet fever. She was terribly sick and lost all her hair. Her golden curls all fell out and were replaced by dark straight hair. She was breathing her last, gasping for breath, when nurse, Ebba Carter from Edberg, who was helping the family, breathed down Viva's throat, gave her breath and saved her life. Viva also had polio when she was twelve years old. She passed away in 1967.

Mr. and Mrs. William Durant and children Walter, Delta, and Emil were close neighbors and good friends. They lived just west of the Stenlund farm on their homestead where Walter still lives. Other close neighbors were Swea and Hjalmar Norman, Seth and Vjana Bergstrom. Ole and Lilly had many friends who visited often and knew the coffee pot was always on and they were welcome with open arms.

Ole and Lilly passed away in January 1969, with Lilly going first and Ole two weeks later.

Jake Tellman

Jake homesteaded N.W. 24-42-19-w4 in the Donalda district in the early 1900's. He raised horses to farm with and horses to sell. Jake lived in a granary. He was very interested in baseball and coached teams in the area. He loved all children and was loved by all of them in return.

He bought the Lundeen farm, S.E. 26-42-19-w4 in 1940, and lived there until he retired in December of 1965. He passed away in May of 1973.

"Dad" Winter

by Harvey Winter

In 1917 Ernest (Dad) Winter bought the S.½ 14-19-42-w4 from Mrs. Olsen whose husband had homesteaded the south west quarter. The south east quarter had been homesteaded by a Mr. James. Mr. and Mrs. Graffunder lived on the north west quarter and the Durand family lived on the north east quarter.

Mr. Olsen, the original owner, gave a parcel of land on the south east quarter for a school which he named the 'Seven Nations' representing the ethnic origins of the settlers. The school was never built as 'Seven Nations' joined Donalda Consolidated district in 1918.

When we arrived on the farm there were seventy acres under cultivation — fourteen of these acres had been plowed by oxen in 1916 by a neighbor, John Krumm. The remainder of the land was mostly plowed by a walking plow — and later by a sulky plow which was a riding plow with one bottom on it. We used harrows — single disc, drill for seeding, binder, mower and hayrake. Our first crop was threshed by Ole Stenlund. The twine was cut by

hand. The farming power was supplied by horses often referred to an 'hay burners.'

Since there was no school, Cecil and Edna rode horseback to Buena Vista school four miles across vacant land. Mary Ince, who had some high school, taught on a permit for six weeks until Miss Wetterby came after university term to teach until the end of June. Mr. J. I. Jones, Q.C. taught the school year 1917-18. I went to school off and on, weather permitting. But I really didn't attend school regularly until the spring of 1918. In 1918 Seven Nations became a part of Donalda Consolidated. We went to school in a covered horse drawn van — a one hour trip, night and morning. I think there were only ten of us the first year — Emil, Walter and Delta Durand, Edna, Earl and Roy Batke, Edna, Cecil, Harvey and Donald Winter. Earl was too young to attend school, and James was a baby. I think Mr. McCabe was the first van driver. He was followed by Hank Anderson, Fred Erickson, Mr. Jackson, Ole Stenlund and later by his son Dennis.

While on the topic of education I would like to add that Dad taught several of the neighboring schools — Hazel Grove School, Glen Park, Ferry Point and Meeting Creek. I think it took all of his salary to dig our well. The neighbors came with barrels in their lumber wagons for water. Mother always had the coffee pot on the stove and a fresh cake so a bit of socializing was done at the same time.

In 1917 our neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Graffunder (Mr. Graffunder had fought in the Riel Rebellion and was present at the signing of the peace treaty at "Peace Hill" at Wetaskiwin), the Durand family, Batke family, Joe Sharkey family, Bill Sharkey family, O. P. Moore family, the Casebeer family and Mr. and Mrs. Stenlund.

After the first World War there was considerable open land which was bought by returned soldiers with families.

James and Lois Winter Family

James was born on his father's farm (Ernest Albert Winter), where he lived and farmed until 1949. James and his wife Lois, purchased the Lawson farm, known as Mardon Ranch in 1949, where they lived until 1962.

They then moved to May Park district, Botha, from the Meeting Creek district. They purchased the Prudden farm, which had an elevator similar to the town grain elevators. It has a capacity of 15,000 bushels fitted with an eight horse Waterloo single cylinder water cooled engine, which operated the leg with a capacity of 200 bushels per hour. It was also fitted with a wagon dump, and a pit capacity of 100

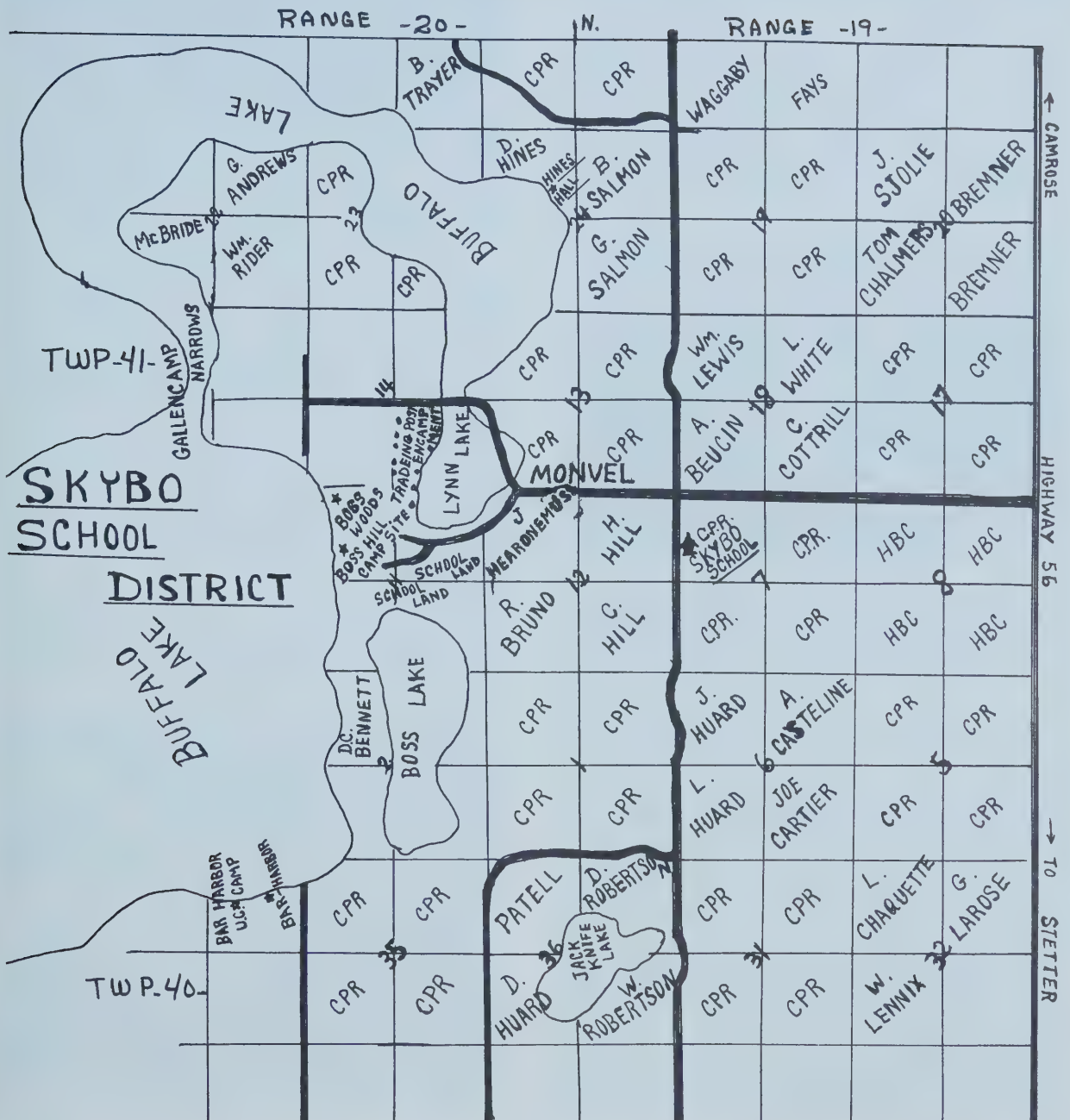
bushels. They resided here for 11 years, then retired and moved to Stettler in 1974.

James Winter married Lois Bentley of Donalda in 1942. They had six children — Willis Albert, who passed away at the age of 2½ years in 1948, Allan Willis, Albert Henry, Laurie James, Alice Marie and Ann Frances (twins).

James was the youngest son of Hilda Loney and Ernest Albert (Dad) Winter, who was a farmer and teacher in the Donalda area. His forefathers were United Empire Loyalists of Dutch descent. The Loney's were of Norwegian descent.

Lois Bentley was the eldest daughter of Minnie. Julia Stratton and Willis E. Bentley of English descent, whose forefathers came on the Mayflower. He was a cheese maker in the Creamery at Olds, a bank teller in the Merchants Bank in Donalda and later farmed 14 miles north of Gadsby (Willow Park), until moving to Calgary in 1944. Lois was the granddaughter of Charles Stratton, who lived on the north east corner of Botha, where the house he built is still standing today. Charles Stratton was one of the early pioneers who had a steam tractor and did brushing, breaking and threshing in the early days, from 1903 and on.

Skybo School District



Skybo School

By 1907 there were enough children in this area to form a school district. The first school board consisted of Harry Hearonemus, Charlie Hill, Dan Hines, H. S. Hayes and George LaRose.

The name "Skybo" was suggested by Charlie Hill, after a home named "Skybo" in Pittsburgh, built by a friend named Andrew Carnegie. That is where the Hills came from.

The school was built by Dan Hines, with some volunteer help, at a cost of \$500.00. It was 20 feet by 26 feet and was built on the S.W. corner of N.W. 7-41-19-w4. The first class started in February, 1908, with Emma Hearonemus as the teacher. Her salary was \$40.00 per month. The first pupils were Nettie and Lloyd Hearonemus; Harry and Inez Hill; Jack and Elsie Trayer; Erma Hines; two Lewis children; two Waggaby children; Jake, Mable and Clyde Heater; Frank, Pearl and Ted LaRose; Addie, Maggie and Mary Chalmers; and Edna Lawrence.



Skybo School children 1927. Back row — Frank Todd, John Camenish, Jim Todd, Winnie Downs, Violet Rider, Sam Todd, Percy Rider, John Beugin. Girls — Marjorie Rider, Rosie Rider, Lena Whitford. Seated — Henry Hearonemus, Harvey Whitford, Lloyd Todd, Max Beugin.

Many children were in their teens, as there had been no school to attend until this first school.

Many of the early teachers came from the Maritimes. The following are teachers who taught at Skybo: Emma Hearonemus, Miss Marshall, A. S. Thompson, F. F. Tracy, Miss McDonald, Mrs. Sleuth, J. K. Mulloy, Fred Young, Miss M. I. Hall, Mr. Knull, C. Coffey, Miss Helen Peterson, Miss F. McKenzie, Miss Marje Holms, Miss Rosa Bousfield, Hildred Graham, Mrs. Matilda Arthur, Mr. Porter, Miss Dorothy Payne, Thelma Neis, Eva Herman, Velma Clark, Bill Wuest, Chester Sorenson, Mrs. McIntosh, Agnes Hammarberg, Doris Lee, Mrs. Clark, Marie Dressler, Marcella Alackson, Hattie Burnstead, Mollie Netterville, Vivian Cle-



Skybo School children 1935. Ruth Salmon, Bernice Hall, Bruce Salmon, Barney Pellowe, Wilfred Pellowe, Henry Hearonemus, Elaine Hall, Sheila Hayes, Brian Hayes, Wilfred Hearonemus, Beth Hall, Aline Salmon, Mary Pellowe.

ment, Bernice Smith, Helen Hagen, Muriel Boulton, Marie Chick, Jim Dennis, Ether Saunders, Lucille Newman, Bernice Rake, Joan McNaughton, Mrs. Mary Knoll, Fred Schedeloski, Marwood Davis and Janet McTaggart.

Some teachers did much to bring more pleasure to pupils and district. Mrs. Helen Peterson introduced hot cocoa and hot soup to the pupils noon meals. Pupils took turns bringing milk for soup and cocoa. The school board supplied sugar, cocoa and soup makings. Each child provided a cup and spoon for him or her self. These were kept in a cupboard at the school.

When Mrs. McIntosh taught, she entered her pupils in music festivals. Elsie Adams helped out by playing the piano. Jean Wilson (Prunkle) was first to take a first prize for a solo in 1934. Musical festivals were discontinued in 1940 after World War II broke out.

Track meets started in the late twenties and really came into full swing under Bill Wuest's coaching. Many cups were won by the pupils. At Donalds they won the silver cup four years in a row, other cups were won at Stettler. Under Chester Sorenson, the Skybo pupils won the softball championship in the Stettler Inspectorate District.

Entries in the school fair at Stettler was another event the pupils entered. The school won a silver cup one year at the fair, and many individual ribbons were won by pupils.

One person whom the pupils and teachers feared was the inspector, Mr. Thibedeau. He never seemed to take into consideration whether a pupil was a slow learner, and expected pupils from beginners on to be good readers, etc.

There was one incident at Skybo which did make him at least seem human. When Mr. Thibedeau came to school every pupil had to take a turn at reading.



Skybo School Children 1947. Back row — Billy Todd, Kathryn Hearnonemus, Bunny Salmon, Orlene Rider. Second row — Vivian Rider, Ron Rider, Frank Salmon. Front row — Diane Rider, Timmy Todd, Oris Rider.

This day, when it was Tommy Chalmers turn, his reading was so low, Mr. Thibedeau sent him to the back of the room to read loud enough so he could hear him at the front. When Tommy finished reading, Mr. Thibedeau asked him "What would you do Tommy if you met a bear?" Tommy's answer was, "I would stick my hand down his throat, grab his tail and turn him inside out." Can you imagine Mr. Thibedeau laughing? Well, he actually did.

The Christmas concert was always the highlight of the school winter season. Many and varied were the programs. Practicing started in November. Excitement ran high amid the pupils for fear they'd forget their lines. After the program each pupil and any small child present received a bag of candy, nuts



Skybo School and picnic group.

and an orange. The bags in those days were of net, lovingly made by the mothers and closed with a drawstring at the top. Santa came to give out these bags as well as a present for each pupil. For many years Elsie Adams played the piano for the concert.

In the fall there was always a box or shadow social held at the school. At these the women and girls put elaborate lunches in pretty decorated boxes. These were auctioned off by a parent to the men and boys present. The money from these socials paid for treats and presents for the pupils, and a box of oranges passed out among the adults. After this, coffee, sandwiches and cookies were served.

Other dances were held throughout the year with music by local talent.

The end of the school year saw the annual picnic at Hearnonemus Bay. There were races such as dashes, three-legged, sack race, and piggy back. Then the ball games consisted of pupils playing the parents. Races were for young and old alike. After the ball game came the peanut scramble, and to end the day a picnic lunch supplied by the mothers.

In the fall of 1945 no teacher was available so pupils were taken to Up To Date by car (bus) driven by Tracy Hall. The trip wasn't very good much of the time as roads were not gravelled and no snow plowing was done in those days. Pupils were Frank and Bunny Salmon, Kathryn Hearnonemus, Orlene and Oris Rider, Ron Rider, Bill Hall and Doug Lyle. Doug usually rode his pony as they lived on the Jake Heater place. In the spring of 1946 Percy Rider took the pupils by horse and democrat. He gave a name to all boys, of the old bachelors of the district, and for years the boys were known by that name. In the fall of 1946 Marie Chick came as a supervisor and school opened again.

In 1952 Marwood Davis, from Elnora, came to teach. Pupils were Oris, Vivian and Betty Rider; Ron, Dianne, Gary and Gail Rider; and Sherry Rider; a complete Rider contingent. It was to be Skybo's last year as a school.

In 1953 and 1954 pupils were again taken by car (bus) to Up To Date with Percy and Astrid Rider doing the bussing. Pupils were Dianne, Gary, Gail and Dick Rider; Bill Lee and Tracy LaRose.

Skybo Church

The first church services were held at the home of Ben Trayers. One summer, a student minister by the name of Mosley had as his preaching points. Whitebrush and Skybo. He stayed at Bashaw, and one could see him on a Sunday jogging between his preaching points. He never rode. For a few years



Student minister Mosley and his bag of ducks.

Rev. Herbert, Anglican Minister in Stettler, held services at Skybo.

In about 1915 or 1916 the Methodist Minister from Donalda held services alternately at Buena Vista and Skybo. Services were held the first and third Sundays. The first minister was R. S. Ratcliffe. In 1925 the United Church was formed. For years services were held at Skybo and Buena Vista schools. In the 1940's, services began to be held in the homes. The last resident minister at Donalda was Jack Wood. He served in 1968. From 1968-1970 Rev. Evans, Rev. De Vries and Shirley Munroe, from Stettler served the area. Since 1970 no services had been held in the country. Two resident ministers, with the help of lay readers, live in Stettler and go to different villages for services.

Skybo Clubs

During the First World War the women did sewing for the Red Cross.

In 1934 the ladies formed the Skybo Ladies Club, which at that time was a social one. When war started in 1939, the members sewed for the Red Cross. Often two or three quilts were tied at a meeting. These were sent to the bomb shelters in England. The men said they hardly dared take off their pants or shirts at night for fear the ladies would cut the shirt tails off and the bottom of the pant legs. Because of the War Effort, it was hard to get goods.

In 1940 the first Red Cross picnic was held at the Percy Rider home. It was a turkey dinner, cooked and served by the ladies at \$1.00 a plate. In 1941 the

picnic moved to Boss Hill with a booth set up. Dinners were sold as well as snacks. Ball games and horse shoes, etc. were played. These picnics were kept up annually until 1976 and many families made that day their family picnic day, so crowds were large.

The club is still active and still sells at sales, etc. to make money. The club also sponsors an annual Christmas Tree at the Skybo Community Centre. The club bought the Skybo School in 1960. They had a basement made 20 ft. by 34 ft., then had the school moved onto it. They took off the old porch and built one 8 ft. by 34 ft. on the west side. They have bingos, card parties, etc. at the centre. They make many monetary donations to Red Cross, Cancer, Heart and Arthritis Funds.

In 1978 each member took under their wing a senior citizen in the Stettler Nursing Home. They visit, provide gifts, etc.

Skybo District

Before setting out the events of the organization of Skybo as a district, there is much previous history of this area.

Lloyd Hearonemus said when he was a young boy of eight, or nine, he remembered exploring on the south east part of the peninsula, and there were many chimneys standing among the trees. This area was about a mile from his home. The chimneys were quite large and made of wood. They were heavily plastered inside and out with clay. The area at that time was so heavily timbered it was almost impossible to ride through, and many of the trees were large. In about 1910 a fire destroyed the chimneys and much of the wooded area. Evidence of the size of some of the trees could still be seen in the 1930's, as huge charred stumps. If one digs in these holes now, after about two feet of leaf mold and soil, a person can find a foot or so of ashes.

Lloyd said there was also evidence of a whipsaw site on a hill at the south side of this area.

The following article is taken from "Land of the Lakes", a book put out by people at the west end of Buffalo Lake and bears out Lloyd's reminiscences.

This is from an article by L. Minkler.

In 1918 while I was farming on what is known as "The Peninsula" on the northeast arm of Buffalo Lake, I ran across what appeared to be the site of an old fort or trading post. All the buildings had been, of course, destroyed presumably by fire, but the cellars and the old Dutch ovens with their burned clay tops were still in existence, though poplar trees, of some thirty years growth, were growing alongside and even in the cellars.

I wrote to an author, who had articles about historical sites in Alberta printed in the Edmonton Journal. He delved long into surveyors notes and early history and came across reminiscences of Col. Sam Steele of the N.W.M.P. and Strathcona Horse fame, who tells of his visit to Buffalo Lake in January 1875. He notes about 400 cabins on the shore of the lake north of Boss Hill.

Steeles' description of the camp will set at rest all controversy as to the origin of these old cellars and Dutch ovens. The exact location is on the fractional south half section on 14-41-20-w4, not far from Jake and Harry Hearonemus places.

'My Forty Years in Canada' by Col. S. B. Steele.

During the first week in January, 1875, Inspector Jarvis learned that an illicit whiskey outfit was en route from Belly River to large Buffalo Lake hunters camp, at the northeast end of Buffalo Lake to trade with the Indians and half breeds. He made up a party of my brother Dick, Carr, myself and ten more men. We hired a dog team and ponies and set off, the weather being very cold, got colder as we proceeded; down to —42 degrees F, —56 degrees F for fifteen days. According to the Hudson's Bay Co. the severest in thirty years.

We took no tents but stopped before dark and cut a great quantity of wood. The snow was then shovelled away, buffalo robes laid down, and after supper of buffalo steaks, bread and tea, we lay down in front of the fire like herrings in a barrel and slept well.

We arrived at Buffalo Lake after dark and were searching among the four hundred cabins to find John Ashon's store. When we heard the sound of music and directed our steps to a large log cabin in which a lively wedding dance was going on. Two rows of young men and women were on the floor footing Lord McDonald's Reel to the most rapid time possible, as was the custom among the hunters. Inspector Jarvis and I entered the room and were directed to Ashon's place, where we received a hearty welcome.

We remained four days in the camp and enjoyed the novelty of the situation. Mrs. Ashon, a young woman of about twenty years of age, took good care that we should not suffer from starvation, for she kept the fire going and the pot boiling the whole time. The interval between meals was very short, for every now and then we would be asked to "draw in" and dispatch buffalo tongue, bannock, strong tea and canned fruit.

To the south of Buffalo Lake and the Hand Hills, vast numbers of buffalo covered the country and although the snow was deep, made a good living off the grass. The Metis and Indians gave the buffalo a chance for its life. They were splendid horsemen and

killed the game from the saddle, a dangerous operation in the winter, owing to the numerous badger holes concealed by the snow.

Boss Hill encampment was also written about by J. G. MacGregor in his book "The Battle River Valley". Following are some of his comments.

During 1876 the concentration of Metis hunters near Boss Hill led the Roman Catholic to station Father Doucet there in a shack village, where they built their houses in the woods right next to the beautiful Buffalo Lake.

The next spring when Bishop Grandin wrote to the Minister of the Interior in Ottawa, he stated that three hundred of St. Albert Metis had moved to the Boss Hill Colony. During the winter of 1875-76 Fathers Lestane and Taford ministered to them. In 1876 Father Taford wrote 800 Metis were there. The N.W.M.P. by frequent visits had stemmed the flow of liquor to the Boss Hill encampment.

According to reports and information taken from Father Lacombe's book, there was a large Indian encampment at the east end of Buffalo Lake in the 1870's. Indians gave the name of Buffalo Lake to the lake because of its shape. The Boss Hill was the hump.

Much interest is still centered in this area by the Archaeology Program from the Provincial Museum in Edmonton. The last five years a group led by Maurice Doll has been digging in the Boss Hill area. They have discovered much evidence of the encampment on S½-14-41-20-w4. The last three years their diggings have been concentrated at the foot of the north slope of Boss Hill. Mr. Doll said the diggings at Boss Hill have produced evidence of campsites being there 2000 to 8000 years ago. One digging was 12 to 14 feet deep and produced waterfowl bones, fish bones, elk bones and even buffalo bones. Many levels produced tools, pottery, etc. This leads us to believe the Buffalo Lake (Boss Hill) area was used because of food and plentiful supply of water for many, many years.

Western Canada was lucky as very little fighting occurred during its development. Due to the N.W.M.P. the Indians were peaceful and we today enjoy a good life due to the homesteaders who came with very little, no conveniences and made a good place to live for all of us. People who came were of many nationalities and from all walks of life.

In the late 1890's and early 1900's many came to settle in what is now the Skybo area. Donald Whitford, a Scottish immigrant, who was an early buffalo hunter, then joined the survey gang who surveyed this area. According to stories, the encampment at Boss Hill closed down when the waters of Buffalo

Lake rose to their highest level in the late 1880's and 1890's. It was impossible to reach the encampment in the summer except by boat.

Two of the first homesteaders in this area were Jake and Harry Hearonemus who arrived in 1901. The first settlers had to go to Lamerton for their mail. Groceries, lumber, etc. had to be purchased either at Lacombe or Wetaskiwin. Trips were made twice a year. In summer, travel was for the most part to the south side of the lake and then west. In winter the Lake made the trip a much shorter one.

Hay

When homesteaders first came, the area east and southeast of the school was C.P.R. and Hudson's Bay Land. It grew an abundance of buffalo or prairie grass that made ideal hay. The government regulated the cutting of this hay. On July 15 a man was allowed to go out and make a cutting around the area he wanted to hay and he was given an hour to do this. Now people may think he could really encircle a large part in an hour, but not so, because prairie grass is extremely hard to cut and many stoppages were made to unplug the sickle. In those days sickles were only 5 feet and, of course, all horse power. To get the best places, some enterprising homesteaders would tie a lantern on the end of the pole and go out at midnight to start their encircling.

Skybo Post Office

In 1904 the Williams opened a store and post office 4 miles east and 2 miles north of what is now Bashaw, later known as the Whitebrush district. Mail was picked up every two weeks. In 1906 the C.P.R. laid rail from Lacombe to Stettler, so people could come that far by train.

In 1906 a post office was opened at Hayes named, Monvel. Mr. Hayes had the post office about two years Mr. Castleline, who lived on N.E. ¼-6-41-19-W4, then took it over. He was succeeded by Adolph Beugin, who lived at the crossroads, now known as Skybo corner.

In 1916 a rural route came out from Donalda and mail was left at Monvel. In 1925 or 1926, Monvel Post Office was closed and the area west of Donalda became Route 4. The first years the mail boxes were at the corner, but later were moved down to the school. The pupils always tried to have a letter to mail so they could meet the mailman. Mr. Tom Solmonson was the first mailman.

Skybo Recreation

The Skybo area has always been a great recreation area. Goose, duck and upland game hunting has



One of Boss Hill's Ball Teams. Back — Alf Rider, Sven Norman, Penny LaRose, Henry Hearonemus. Front — Leeland Fisher, Jack Rider, Sam Todd, Percy Rider, Willie Paschke.

always been prevalent, and these last years deer hunting. Fishing is done in Buffalo Lake. In the 1920's and 1930's much commercial fishing was done.

Camping and picnicing has always been enjoyed at Boss Hill in the 1920's and 1930's many people camped at the Hearonemus Bay. In the 1960's the government built a kitchen, toilets, two change houses and put up slides, swings, teeters, etc. in a playground at Boss Hill. Most weekends the campground is full of campers and picnickers.

In 1967 the Stettler Scout District built Boss Woods Camp. It is half a mile north of Boss Hill. There is a large Manor house, leader cabin and five other cabins. The Manor is supplied with power (own plant), propane, water and a telephone. Tenting places are scattered throughout the trees.

Ball was always a pastime in the summer. Baseball was played at first but this gave away to softball in the late 1920's. For years, the men had a very successful softball team, one of the most successful consisted of Jim, Sam, Frank and Lloyd Todd; Roy



Red Cross Picnic at Boss Hill about 1944.



Picnic at Boss Hill.

and Penny LaRose; Jack, Percy and Alf Rider and Arthur Hayes.

Hockey teams were also formed off and on, with the sloughs or Boss Lake providing the playing area.

At one time Oscar Olsen had a boat site south of Boss Woods. He had a launch in which he took people for a tour of the Lake. He ran this until the late 1920's. At the same time a man by the name of Canary ran a booth and had a band in a cleared area in the woods near the launch site.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Abrahamson

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Abrahamson homesteaded near the Gallencamp Narrows by Buffalo Lake. In 1909 they bought southeast twenty-seven, forty-one,



Mr. and Mrs. Peter Abrahamson.

nineteen, west of the forth. There they built a three room log house. They left there in 1917 and before many years had passed Mr. Abrahamson died. Mrs. Abrahamson returned and stayed with Mrs. Hammarberg. Mrs. Abrahamson had blood poison in one hand and remained there until it healed.

Mrs. Abrahamson went to Manitoba, intending to return to the United States. She was unable to return to the United States of America and her whereabouts since that time have been unknown.

Adams, Pete (Percival D.)

Pete, a nickname, came to the Skybo district in March of 1920 at the age of 17 years. He and his dad, a real estate agent and horse racing manager, bought the east half of 1-41-20-4 earlier. Pete's dad at one time had also been a rancher, and Pete liked farm life better than city life so persuaded his dad to let him go farming. Pete's dad also owned the east half of what is known as Jack Knife Lake section, this was south of section 1. When Pete first came, he stayed at the Hayes farm for three months, while he built a small barn. In this barn he fixed a room for himself, in which he lived for two summers and one winter.



Pete Adams and Harry Alison picking grouse beside Pete's log house which replaced his first home.

After Pete moved into his new quarters he proceeded to get a house for himself. On the Jack Knife Lake land was a log house with a sod roof. Pete took the roof off, and then dismantled the walls, marking each log as he took it off, and then moved these logs to S.E. ¼ 1-41-20-4. He rebuilt the house and put a lumber roof on it. It still stands and is in very good condition.

On January 14, 1928 Pete married Elsie Dawson

from Rockeling Bay district. Elsie was a teacher and taught at Big Timber, Little Rock and Bashaw. They lived in the little log house until their new home was finished that summer.

Pete was a mixed farmer, and always kept sheep until a few years before retiring.

Pete's uncle Percy often came from Calgary to visit. One day Uncle Percy had taken the slop to give to the pigs and was just bending over the fence to pour it into the trough when Pete's ram, seeing a handy target, went wham into Uncle Percy's butt and landed him head first into the trough. Well, you can imagine the language, and Pete, not being far off, trying his best not to laugh too loudly.

For years Elsie played the piano at Skybo school for the Christmas concert, and also for the pupils taking part in the music festivals at Stettler each spring.



Combination house and barn Pete Adams built when he came to Skybo district. Cars are a Hudson Super six and a McLoughlin Buick.

When Pete built a garage and put a chimney in it, each spring a wood duck decided this was a good building spot. Often a small duckling would fall into the stove and Pete had to rescue it. Pete says the mother duck would come out of the chimney with a duckling on her back when it was time to move them to the slough.

Pete was a lover of spring fires and many a time, his neighbors had to turn out to help put out one which had gotten out of control.

Pete and Elsie sold out in the spring of 1967 and moved to Bashaw. At first they had a suite in Bennett's apartment house, later they built a house near Bashaw Valley Lodge, where Pete still lives and raises a lovely garden and a beautiful lawn and flowers. Elsie passed away suddenly in March, 1979.

Elsie and Pete have a daughter Barbara. Barbara always showed a lamb and schoolwork at Stettler school fair. Barbara married Willis Watson from

Stettler and they live four miles north of Stettler. Barbara is secretary-treasurer at the Stettler School.

They have two children, Marilyn who teaches at Stettler School and Rodney who works at the legion.

Oris Rider bought and lives on Pete and Elsie's place.

Anderson, A. C.

A. C. Anderson and his wife Mildred, with sons Murray and Arthur and daughter Jean came from Springbank, near Calgary, to the Peninsula about 1920. He bought the land on which the McTaggerts had lived, S½ 23-41-20-4. He built a lovely house with a fireplace. It is the only house in Skybo district with a fireplace. The house was moved by Hayes' in 1952, and is their residence now. In 1940 A. C. sold the land to Jack Gallencamp.

A. C. had a very good herd of Ayrshire cattle. He took many prizes with these cattle. His son Murray still has Ayrshire cattle and lives on the farm at Springbank.

In 1920 Mr. Anderson bought the Jake Hearonemus farm when Jake went to B.C. About 1923, A. C. traded his farm for one west of Donalda owned by Butzer. The Andersons moved to the Donalda farm and Butzer moved to the Jake Hearonemus farm.

Andersons farmed at Donalda for two or three years, then sold the Donalda farm and moved back to Springbank.

Andrews, George

George and Lena, eldest daughter of Tom Rider Sr., were married and had a small daughter when they came with the Rider contingent from Oklahoma to the Lamerton district in 1905.

They took out their homestead on the Peninsula, their land being N.E. 21-41-20-W4. Here they built a log house and moved into it in 1907. They had six children, Gladys, Mabel, George, Bill, Walter and Cecil. Cecil died when small.

Gladys married Bill Campbell and they had two sons, Bob and Clifford. They lived for a while on the Huard place. Later Gladys moved to Rimbey and married a Mr. Block, they had two daughters, Gloria and Karen. Clifford and girls are married and Gladys and Bob live on the farm.

Mabel married Ed Radke, who worked for the Canadian National Railway until his retirement several years ago. They have three daughters and one son. They are now living in Bashaw.

Bill married Ella Zimmer. They had eight children, Beatrice, Alfred, Cecil, Diane, Daryl, Russel, Virginia, and Marlin. Bill is dead. Ella and son Daryl run a dairy farm. Alfred has the Esso in Bashaw. The

rest are working elsewhere. Bill and Ella with older children lived for a while on the Tom Rider homestead S.W. 14-41-20-W4.

George and Walter are both dead.

Lena died in 1932 and George in 1940.

They moved from the Skybo district to Whitebrush in the 1920's and A. C. Anderson bought their place.

Allen, Lorton

Lorton went homesteading on N.E. 14-41-20-4, a fraction. He came to the area in 1906. His house was just east of the channel, which joined Hearonemus Bay and Lynn Lake, though his farm land was west of the channel on the Peninsula.

Lorton loved boating, and in the fall of 1910 he was drowned, when a storm came up when he was crossing from home to the Harry Hearonemus place.

Bennett

Mr. Bennett homesteaded either the S.W. 2-41-18-W4 or N.W. 2-41-20-W4 — the top of Boss Hill.

Mr. Bennett loved fishing, so he built a cabin on the lakeshore, as well as one on the top of Boss Hill.

When Mr. Bennett left the area, he sold his land to a relative.

Beugin, Adolph

Adolph Beugin, his wife and daughter Frances, came from France in 1911. Their homestead was S.W. 18-41-19-W4. Here, sons John and Max were born.

About 1913 Mr. Beugin took over the post office from Casteline. He had it in their home, a log cabin, which was situated in the S.W. corner of their farm. When Casteline left in about 1920 Beugins moved to that farm and had the post office there also. In 1924 when Butzers moved to Ontario, Beugins moved there and ran the post office from there until the Monvel post office was closed and the Skybo area joined the R.R. No. 4 from Donalda.

In the late 1920's and early 1930's the Beugins trucked cream throughout the area to the Donalda Creamery.

In the spring of 1936 Beugins moved to the Rockling Bay area. Here they ran a goodly number of sheep.

When World War II broke out, John joined the services. When he returned in 1946 he remained in the army and worked at Currie Barracks, and took up tin-smithing. While overseas he was married and they now live in Calgary and have two sons.

Adolph, his wife and Frances all died in the early 1960's. In 1966 Max sold out and moved to Calgary, where he is with the Postal Service.

Brosinski, Leo

Leo and Katie Brosinski moved into the Big Timber area in 1954. They have twelve children. Raymond, Robert, Anthony, Agnes, Marcella, Elaine, Kenneth, Chris, Debbie, Gladys, Patty and Peter. All the children went to Donalda school. Peter is now in grade 12 at Bashaw.

Bruno

There were three Bruno brothers. Robert nicknamed teapot. Another brother nicknamed coffeepot, and the youngest brother Paul. People say they received their nicknames because of their crooked noses.

Teapot and his wife and family homesteaded S.W. 12-41-12-W4. They were Metis and were well liked by everyone. Mrs. Bruno helped nurse neighbors who were ill.

Teapot loved dancing and never lacked for partners at a dance. They left during World War I and their whereabouts is unknown.

Pete Adams bought the Bruno place and now it is owned by Oris Rider.

A person by the name of Mustard lived on the Bruno place for awhile.

Butzer, Ben

Ben Butzer was born in Dredsan, Ontario in 1889, then moved to Deseronto, where he went to school, later to business college at Belleville. Ben then went to Smith Falls and worked for Frost and Wood, later for Canadian Pacific Railway in the Department of Natural Resources. In 1913 he went to Calgary and there he met a girl from Bismarh, Manitoba whom he married. They moved to Donalda, where they bought a two storey frame house, in



Ben Butzer and wife Verna with grandson.



Butzer children. Back row — Victor 17, Charles 19, Edgar 15, Front row — Douglas 8, Irene 23, Bertha 25, Arthur 21, Florence 10.

which they ran a hardware store. Bertha, their eldest daughter was born there in 1917. In 1918 Ben built a brick building, into which he moved his hardware, and the family lived upstairs. Irene was born here. This building is the present Lucky Dollar Store.

Butzers then bought the farm west of Donalda, where Louis Bells now live. Arthur was born here in 1920. They then traded this farm for the previous Jake Hearonemus homestead, from A. C. Anderson which he had bought from Jake when he moved to British Columbia. Charlie was born here on the Skybo farm, which is the Percy Rider home.

In 1924 Butzers moved to a farm in Prince Edward County, Ontario, and then to Glencoe where he ran a factory. Later they moved to Wallaceburg where Ben worked in a Brass Factory. Children Edgar, Douglas, Victor and Florence were born in Ontario. In 1969 Ben and his wife both died at Wallaceburg.

Bertha, Charlie and Victor are married and live at Wallaceburg.

Irene is married and lives at St. Thomas.

Edgar is married and lives at Lindsay. Douglas is married and lives in Edmonton, Alberta. Florence is married and lives in Windsor. Bertha, Douglas and families have visited Donalda and district several times.

Camenish, Jake

Jake Camenish, his wife and son John, and stepson Ralph Hart came from Montana in 1919. Jake was originally from Switzerland.

They bought the S.E. 25-41-20-W4, and the N.W. 18-41-20-W4, Hines homesteaded on which the Hines Hall had been built.

Ralph loved horses and riding. He became well schooled in bucking horses, under the tutorship of Lawrence Bruce. When Ralph finished school he got a job in the Bashaw bank. Later he became a travelling salesman for Palmolive Soap Co. and worked his way up to office manager. He won several free trips by winning best salesman award. He now lives in the United States.



Mr. and Mrs. Jake Camenish.

John was four when he came to the district. He went to Buena Vista School his first year along with Fred Williams. Later he transferred to Skybo and finished his schooling at Skybo.

The Camenishes were fine neighbors, and Jake was always cheerful no matter what.

After Louie Judd died they acquired the half section on the north side of highway 53, which is kitty corner from Harry Conibears, and also the quarter east of Harry Conibears.

When people growled about snow storms in June, Jake said it was good for the crops. When crops were covered with snow, the roots went down and later if it became dry the crops didn't suffer.

Mrs. Camenish died in 1942.

In 1954 Jake and John sold their home quarter and Hines place to August Zimmer. They sold one quarter north of the highway to Gerald Lindstrom and the other to Billy Dahl. Harry Conibear acquired the one across from him. When they left they moved to a



John Camenish seeding grain with horse drill.

home they bought in Bashaw. In 1963 Jake moved into the Bashaw Valley Lodge where he died in 1975.

John worked for a short while around Bashaw, then went to Jasper Park, where he worked until he retired in 1976. He married Leona Jackshaw and they now live in the Braseth trailer park in Bashaw.

Cartier, Omer and Elizabeth

In 1908 Omer and Elizabeth Cartier, with sons Joe and Arthur came to the Skybo area. Joe filed on homestead S.E. 6-41-19-W4 and they all lived there. They were cousins of the Huards, who lived south of Skybo school.

The Cartiers came to Skybo from the Wetaskiwin area, where Mr. Cartier had taken a homestead in 1893. Art was born there in 1894. They did freighting, or as they called it teaming, as well as farming.

After Joe proved up on his homestead they left and went back to Wetaskiwin and teamed there. Omer died in 1939, Elizabeth in 1942 and Joe in 1969.

Art married Mary Moonen of Millet and lived



Back row — Omar Cartier, wife Elizabeth, Joe's wife and Joe. Front row — Joe's daughter and her husband with their two children.

there until 1944. They then moved west of Winfield and farmed until they retired to the village of Winfield. Their family included six boys and three girls. One boy died at the age of eight years and the rest are scattered around.

Art remembers some of the people around Buffalo Lake, such as Mahaffey's, Filataultre, Coles, George La Rose, Casteline, Chalmers, Whitfords, Knotts, Ed Patenoude, Barney MacMillan, Louis Chequette, Van Dykes, Uyletts, Proctor, Gamble, Hines and Hayes. Some of these lived in other districts but came to dances, ball games, etc. at Skybo.



Art Cartier and his wife Mary with six of their eight children.

Edna Salmon remembers the Cartier boys coming dressed up as clowns to a dance and really putting on an act.

Casteline

Mr. and Mrs. Casteline with children Marcel, Antonette and Jack came from eastern Canada. Mr. Casteline was a photographer from a well to do family and had come from Belgium. They came to the Skybo district about 1906 and homesteaded on N.E. 6-41-19-W4. In 1908 Mr. Casteline became postmaster of the Monvel Post Office; post office being in his home.

Hugo Knott tells of going for mail to the Castelines, and as kids would never go alone. This was because before they got to Castelines there was a flat covered with badger holes; and he and his sisters thought the badgers were fierce animals that would get them. They always took their dog along for protection Hugo said.

About 1916 Mr. Casteline bought a car. One day he went to Stettler and before returning had eleven gallons of gas put in. But lo and behold when about four miles from home his car stopped. Upon exam-

ination he found a hole in his gas tank, probably put there by a rock, or hitting a rut. He walked to Knotts who helped him get home.

Marcel was a very good photographer and took many pictures throughout the district.

They left the Skybo district about 1918 intending to immigrate to Belgium, but because Mrs. Casteline had been born in Canada, they were refused entrance. They came back to Winnipeg and lived there.

Jack and his family still live there.

Chalmers, Tom

Tom and Joseph Chalmers came west about 1880 to High River. They intended to ranch, but due to lack of funds were unable to do it. Tom then worked for Buck Smith, who had a stopping house. About 1884 Buck Smith and Tom Chalmers arrived in the Buffalo Lake area. Tom freighted from Red Willow to Edmonton. At Battle Lake he met and married Flora Whitford, a daughter of Donald and Peggy Whitford. They lived for several years in Battle Lake area. In 1902 they came to the Buffalo Lake area with daughters Addie, Maggie and Mary. They lived for a while on the S.E. 16-41-19, where their son Tommy was born. In 1903 they filed on a homestead, two miles west, which was S.W. 20-41-19. Here their daughter Jessie was born. The older children attended the Skybo school when it opened. Edna (Lawrence) Marshall, Addie and Maggie were wonderful story tellers and Edna wished she had written down some of their stories. Tom Chalmers moved to the Donalda area for a short while then came back to the Skybo district. They lived here until about 1930 when they moved to the Star Ridge area. Tom died in 1940 and Flora died in 1963. Addie married Jesse Hilker, who had the W $\frac{1}{2}$ -17-41-19. They moved to Red Willow area shortly after their marriage. They had five children; Edith, Rosie, James, Edward and Clarence. Jesse also had a son Alvin by his first marriage. A number of years ago Alvin won the World Chuckwagon Championship at Calgary. Edith married Clarence Smith and lived for a while at Star Ridge then moved to Saskatchewan. Rosie married Joe Vallet and they had four children; Donald, Aldon, Wayne and Dale. More of the Vallet story under Science Mound stories. The boys all left the area. When her children were grown Addie moved to the Village of Donalda. Clarence came from Edmonton to live with her when she became ill. Addie died several years ago and Clarence still lives in Donalda. Maggie was killed in a hunting accident when she was fourteen. Mary married Ed Barrett and they lived in the Red Willow area. They had one daughter Martha. Ed died before Martha was born. Several



Tommy Chalmers with eight horse tandem ready to go to the field. Saddle horse being led will probably be ridden home at dinner time.



Chalmers family. Back row — Mary, Maggie and Addie. Front row — Tommy, Tom Chalmers, Jessie and wife Flora.

years ago Mary married Walter Zipse. They lived for a while at the Lang Corners, then when they retired they moved to Stettler, where they still live. Martha married John Summers of Science Mound area. They had 6 children. They sold out several years ago and moved to Calgary. Jessie married Ray Clovis and they had two sons Lawrence and Lester. Ray died when the boys were small. When the boys were grown Jessie married a Mr. Reed and they live in Killam. Lawrence and Lester served in World War II. Lawrence was missing in action. Tommy worked for farmers. Many of those years he spent working for Gene Vallet of Science Mound district. Tommy was very fond of horses. One of Tommy's special accomplishments was playing the violin. He played for many school dances throughout the area. About ten years ago Tommy retired to Donalda. He had often done carpenter work in his spare time. He still does a bit of it.

Louis Chaquette

Louis Chaquette lived east of the Jackson place. Tornacks now have it. He had a frame building on a

hill, which he later moved to Bar Harbor. When Louie died his house was moved to Stettler.

Louie didn't care too much for children and they knew it. In winter, everytime he went by the Skybo school, the boys would pelt him with snowballs and he would go in and tell the teacher. The result was a few lost recesses to the snowballers.

Chick, Frank

Frank and Lorraine Chick and their five children; Brenda, Gaylene, Susan, Tammy and Sheldon, moved on N.W. ¼ 6-41-19-W4, when Ferd Schultz sold out. Lorraine is Frank LaRose's second youngest daughter, and grew up in the Up-to-Date district. Frank drives the school bus to Stettler and farms. Part of the winter he does cat work on oil and gets a relief bus driver. The whole family are animal lovers and they have horses, dogs, goats and cats.

Since the above write up Frank and family have moved their trailer to the west end of Stettler and Frank works with LaRose Construction.

Norman Christie

Skybo district and the area to the south seemed to be a haven for bachelors; they were many and varied. One of these was Norman Christie, who came into the area in the early 1900's and farmed about a mile south west of the Hayes farm home. Norman was a quiet, very likeable fellow.

When World War II broke out, Norman enlisted and was posted overseas. He was wounded and invalided home. He spent much of the rest of his life in and out of Calgary Military Hospital. His injury was from shrapnel, and every so often a piece would work its way toward the surface, causing much pain, and he would have to go to hospital to have it removed. On one of his many stays in the hospital he met and fell in love with a nurse named Janet. They were married about 1930 and came to the farm to live. Norman's pension was twenty dollars a month, very small by today's standards.

They had three children; Mary, Gordon, and Grace. With Norman's poor health and the hard times, in the late 1950's the Christies moved to Stettler. Hayes' bought their land.

Janet was a great gardener, and had a small orchard, part of which is still bearing fruit.

Norman did not live too long after leaving the farm, and Janet died a few years later. Mary and Grace are married and live in Edmonton. Gordon lives in Ft. McMurray. The old house still stands on the farm.

Clovis, Hoyt

Mr. and Mrs. Clovis with son Roy and daughter Alma came from the United States in 1916. In 1917 they came to the Donalda area.

Mr. Clovis worked for different people but mostly he loved to break horses. When he left this area in 1930 he took thirty head of horses along.

Mrs. Clovis was well liked by everyone and often worked out when a cook etc. was needed. The Shoemaker children, especially Hazel, have fond memories of her as she looked after them for several years after their mother died.

The Clovis' lived for several years on Tom Rider homestead, known as The Olsen Place now, after the Nighdises left. Percy Rider often stayed with them while they lived there, after his dad died.

Roy Clovis married Edith Rider in 1925 and they lived for awhile on the Emdee place, later on the Warren place at Buena Vista.

Daughter left when she grew up and her whereabouts is unknown.

In 1930 the Clovises all went to Fort St. John, British Columbia when the Bill Riders went there.

Mr. and Mrs. Clovis are both dead.

Cotterill

Mr. Cotterill homesteaded the S.E. 18-41-19-W4. His house was not on the homestead quarter, as at that time the road took a large swing to the south, so he built his house near the road. The straightened road goes through where his house was situated.

Mr. Cotterill was the first to try growing apples in this area and had a fair amount of success. No one knows where he went when he left the district.

History of the Dykstra Family

Mr. Riemer Dykstra was born in Holland in 1867. In 1883 at sixteen years of age he came to Illinois in the United States of America, with his father, mother, sisters and brothers. He later married Ellen Jane Steele. In 1902 he came to Alberta to look for a homestead. He took a homestead on the Blindman River near Ponoka and he worked in Ponoka until he had enough money to bring his wife and six children to Alberta. They came by train to Ponoka. On arrival, three of the children broke out with small pox. They were staying at a boarding house and the children were kept in the wash house, to keep the boarding house from being quarantined.

They were unable to get water on the homestead, so gave it up. When the train tracks were completed to Stettler, he moved his family to Stettler. He took a homestead in the Pilot Knob district on NW 32-39-19-w4 now owned by the Harold Walstrom family.

There was no school in the area at the time, so he donated land in the north east corner of his quarter for a school, where Pilot Knob still stands.

Years later, the family moved north to the Emdee place and the children went to Skybo school. Some of the older children were married or out working and on their own by this time.

Mary married Earl Lagore, they lived in Coronation area for awhile then moved north east of Stettler where they raised a family of twelve children. Ernest of Stettler married Mable Johnstone and they have a son Allan living in Stettler and two daughters living in Calgary. Paul is married and lives in Bashaw. Randolph lives in Erskine and has a family of five. Lenard was married and lived in British Columbia, where he passed away. Leona married William Paschke, has two sons and lives in Silver Prairie district. Joyce Donald lives in British Columbia. Doris Russel and Lois Fitzsimmons both live in Oregon, United States of America. Ilene Rock lives in Stettler. Willa in Edmonton. Ken is living on a ranch in Alberta and Ada Church lives in Botha. Mrs. Mary Lagore lives in Stettler, Earl passed away a few years ago.

Willa moved back to the States and died there at 79 years of age in 1972.

Dave married Edna Nelson and farmed south of Stettler, retired and moved into Stettler. He died in 1975. They had two girls and one son. Muriel Norris and Kay McKay both live in Stettler. Lloyd was killed in action during the Second World War.

Esther married Sam Whitford, they lived in the Skybo district where some of their children went to school. Later they moved to Vilna, Alberta where Esther still lives.

John married Cecilia Jones; he died in Red Deer in August, 1979., Their only son Duane is dead. He had a daughter Dorothy Moore living at Sylvan Lake.

Bertha Smith raised her family at Drumheller and now lives in Calgary.

Roy went to Maidstone, Saskatchewan with his folks and later went back to the States. He now lives in Siebert, Colorado. Mr. Riemer Dykstra died in Kansas at 79 years of age. Mrs. Ellen Dykstra died in Kansas at 86 years of age. There are still many descendants living in the Stettler area.

Robert Dykstra

Robert was the eldest of Riemer Dykstra's children, in 1914 he married Edna Houghton. They lived for awhile in Stettler, then moved to the Skybo district. For awhile they lived on the Emdee place, but later had a home north of Ted LaRoses. When

Beugin moved from SW 18-41-20-w4, they moved there. Their family consisted of six children: Opal, Myrtle, Georgia, Pearl, Eunice and Arnold.

Bob served for a number of years as Secretary-Treasurer for the Skybo School District. Bob, like many other men in those days, cut and sawed large piles of wood. Much of this wood Bob hauled to Stettler, as at that time there was a great demand for wood. This type of work helped many in those days supplement the family income.

When Bob, Edna and younger children left the Skybo district, Opal, Myrtle and Georgia stayed with the Sam Whitfords for awhile so they could continue their schooling. Esther (Mrs. Sam Whitford) was a sister of Bob Dykstra.

Opal is married to Denis Harvey. During World War II, Denis served in the navy. They now reside in Haney, British Columbia. Myrtle died in 1977. Georgia married John Savage of Stettler. John died several years ago and Georgia now lives in Stettler. Eunice married George Sayce and they live on the former Chester Knowles farm, five miles north of Stettler. This farm is directly east of the former homestead of Eunice's grandfather Riemer Dykstra. They have a family of four girls. The eldest Marilyn is married to Paul LaRose, second youngest son of Frank LaRose. Paul and Marilyn have two children and live across the road from George and Eunice. One of their daughters owns the Magna Carta Boutique in Stettler.

The other two girls are married but do not live in this area. Pearl married Frank Nelson and they live at Bowden, Alberta. Arnold married Pauline Sunderland from Edmonton. They farmed in the Gadsby district for several years, they sold the farm and moved to Oliver, British Columbia.

Bob died of cancer in 1956. Edna (Mrs. Lake) lives in Stettler.

Fred Ellis

Fred Ellis, a bachelor, lived just south of Hayes. His outstanding feature was his handlebar mustache. He farmed some and worked out for neighbors. According to all stories he was quite a character. When he worked he was never in a hurry and he would remark if his employer said anything, "If you don't like my gate, you don't have to swing on it."

One thing that happened quite often was his shack being burned. He had, so the stories go, a box heater, and instead of cutting wood to fit it, would bring a tree to the door and shove one end into the stove. As it burned, he kept shoving it in, until it was gone. This occasioned the burning of his shack at times. The neighbors would then cut logs and help

him build another. He never got around to plastering it, and often in the winter would wake up with a couple inches of snow on his bed.

Another story tells that his shack was so cold that one winter when he trapped a porcupine which froze before he could skin it, he hung it above his stove and it never thawed out all winter.

He would work hard for awhile and then sit down for a long rest.

One time he broke his leg and had to crawl a mile and a half to get home. Despite this his leg healed well after he got it set.

Elliot, Alex

Alex Elliot, with his mother and sister Jean came to Stettler in September, 1909, from Howick, Rexburgh, Scotland. Alex was thirteen at the time. Alex was met in Stettler by Jake Hearonemus. The Elliots were friends of Mrs. Agnes (Jake) Hearonemus as she had also come from Scotland. Alex was in Stettler for two days and when he went out to Jakes had his first ride in a lumber wagon. Alex said he thought it was very rough as there were only prairie trails, and it was quite an experience. Also he had come from a town with gas lights and indoor plumbing, so coal oil lamps and outside biffies were something very different.

Neighbors were Harry Hearonemus, Bill Rider, Tom Rider, George Andrews, Jake McBride, Norton Allan, Salmon Brothers, Huards, Casteline, Chalmers, Cartiers, Hayes and Hills. Alex worked seven years all together for Jake and Harry Hearonemus.

In the falls he worked on a threshing crew run by Harry Hearonemus and Joe Huard. One fall there was so much smut on the grain, they couldn't tell the color of their clothes at night, because they were covered with smut dust. They threshed in the Skybo district and west along the south side of Buffalo Lake to Rochon Sands.



Taken shortly after Alex Elliot arrived in Canada. Jake Hearonemus, wife Agnes. Standing at back Alex Elliot, George standing between his parents.

In 1916 Alex went to Red Willow district where his Mother lived, she had married again, this time also to a man named Elliot, and they had a son called John.

Alex obtained land there and married Meg, a girl from Scotland. They had four children; Janet, George, Betty and Bobby. George married Bernice Hall and had a house in Alex's yard. When they sold out Alex moved to Donaldal, as Meg was dead. His sister Jean joined him there. She had been a nurse in the United States and was retired.

Janet married Mel Quance from Botha. Betty married Bob Hankins and they live in British Columbia. Bob married Louise Tornack and lives at Gadsby.

Alex now lives in Heart Haven Senior Citizens home in Stettler. Jean passed away several years ago. Alex is very well except for his legs which he says don't function too well.

Emdee

William Emdee, wife and family came to Skybo district, when Charlie Hills left, and bought the Hill farm. William was a brother to Mrs. Harry Hearonemus. Their children were; Letty, Jeannie, Lester, Vera and Louise. They came to Skybo from Lethbridge.

Jeannie worked for many years for Sharpe and Paeg in Stettler, the rest all went to school at Skybo.

The Emdees left Skybo in the early 1920's. Jeannie went to San Diego, California. Lester went to Indiana. Wm. Emdee, his wife and other children went to Manitoba. For years William worked at the International Peace Gardens between North Dakota and Manitoba.

Hall, Tracy A.

Tracy and Susan Hall and family of three girls; Elaine, Beth and Bernice moved from Standard, Alberta to the Skybo district in 1928.

The farm was located on what was called the peninsula. The farm was originally owned by A. C. Anderson. Later Mr. and Mrs. Duncan McTaggart (Susan's parents) who moved east of Donaldal, farmed on what is known as the Ewing farm.

Susan has claims on many babies born in the surrounding districts, as many women had their babies at home, Susan being a Registered Nurse.

She had one baby to look after, Dorothy Borup, who was born when her mother passed away. Susan and Tracy had the care of her for three years.

When Mr. Pete Borup came and took her home it was a very sad day. Some days later, Elaine, Beth



Hall family in 1940. Bernice, Susan, Beth, Tracy and Elaine, with Bill in front with his mother.

and Bernice went to Borup's and kidnapped Dorothy and brought her home. Consequently, visiting ceased for some time.

On August 8, 1934 William Alexander (Bill) was born. Of course, to his three sisters, he was the baby of all time.

The Hall girls made many a trip to Skybo school across Buffalo Lake to the Hearonemus side. This was a darn cold ride in the winter, whether on horse back or cutter, which Father fixed or repaired daily. A majority of the children going to Skybo piled into the cutter at home time.

The Hall girls along with their school chums won many Silver Cups and ribbons for Sports Days and Musical Festivals (usually travelling in the Hayes Bros. truck).

In 1940 Tracy joined the Armed Forces in World War II, and served overseas for five years. He was wounded in Belgium and arrived in Calgary on V.E. Day.

On his return he bought the Jake Heater farm, where he resided until his passing at the age of 61 years in 1961.

Susan sold the farm to Mr. and Mrs. Penny LaRose. She bought Mrs. Otterson's house in Donalda (once the Post Office and Telephone Office). In 1976 she sold this house to Mr. and Mrs. Rod Stanvik and moved to Stettler Manor Apartments, where she still resides.

Elaine spent four years in the Armed Forces down East. She married Keith McKay and lives in Hayward, California. They have three children. Barbara who married Gary Clement and lives in Donalda, with their three children; Cammy, Sheila and

Tanya. Darlene married Mike Bedle and Darcy is still at home in California.

Beth married Penny LaRose and had a family of four. Beth passed away in April of 1976. Tracy bought the home place. He and his father still live there.

Carol married Alan Proctor and has two girls; Nicole and Jackie. Alan farms with his dad Mr. John Proctor.

Arthur married Jeanette Laisnez and has one son Jason. Arthur farms with his father-in-law Charlie Laisnez of Big Valley.

Robin lives in Stettler and works for Plains Western Gas Co. He is engaged to marry Gloria Boyd in September.

Bernice married Dennis Rake in 1945. He was in the Armed Forces at Sarcee near Calgary and passed away in August, 1946, from a head injury. To this union a son Dennis was born in September, 1946. Dennis is married to Sharon Tyrlik and has two children Riki Lynn and Geoffrey. They reside in Spruce Grove.

Bernice married George Elliot of Red Willow in July, 1951.

To this union five children were born.

George who married Darlene Skene, lives in Spruce Grove. They have one daughter Terri Leanne.

Bill married Shelly Torrington, a girl from Ontario, and they reside in Camrose.

The twins Susan and Stephen. Susan married Larry Rae from Edmonton who has a son Darcy, they live in Mill Woods. Stephen died in infancy.

Jean is still at home taking her Grade 12 at the Stettler High School.

George and Bernice have made their home in Donalda for the last 23 years. George works for the Department of Highways. He is also the school representative from Donalda.

It should be mentioned here that George's father



The Hall home on the Peninsula.

Alex Elliot landed from Scotland at the Jake Hearonemus home in 1909 at the age of 13.

He now resides at Heart Haven in Stettler, just celebrating his 83rd birthday.

Bill Hall married a Calgary girl, Flo Pust, and has three sons. Dale and Terry are still at home. John is married and has a son.

Bill is in the meat cutting business. Many will remember him taking his training after school, working for Chris Lausen Sr.

Bill still has his love for music; he and his family have a band, playing in and around Calgary.

Haggerty, Don

Don Haggerty and his wife Martha came to Skybo district in 1937 from Donaldal, where for years he owned and operated the Donaldal Hotel. They bought the old Joe Huard place.

They milked a few cows, had a few range cattle and quite a number of sheep.

Don was a very helpful neighbor. One of his likes was fresh saskatoons and cream. He could eat a porridge bowl full at a meal.

In 1942 they rented the land to Sven and Myrtle Norman, along with stock and machinery; and Don and Martha moved to Stettler.

In 1944 they sold the farm to Ferd Schultz from Bashaw and moved to Leduc. Both are now deceased.

Hartman, Tony

Tony was a railroad engineer. Tony and a Tommy Atkinson bought the Island, west of Boss Hill, in 1912. They built a small house which was to become a chicken house later; but when Tommy went to Calgary he squandered away their money, so no other house was built. Tommy left and went to the Peace River country. Tony lived on the island until 1948, when poor health forced him to leave. He lived



Tony Hartman getting ready to leave the Island. Pulling wagon is Ted Pipe with Tony behind.

in Bashaw for awhile, then went to St. Joseph's Hospital in Edmonton where he died in 1952.

Tony kept about twenty head of Angus cattle, a team of horses and some chickens. He kept a pet hen which used to perch on the end of his bed at night. Tony always grew a wonderful garden, especially corn and tomatoes.

In 1941 Tony sold his cattle and horses, and rented his land for pasture to Jack and Percy Rider. They decided to put their sheep there as there were no coyotes on the island. In the spring the sheep were taken across in the boat, it took about sixteen trips, as there were eighty head. In the fall they decided to wait until the lake was frozen to bring them back. One day Tony came over to say coyotes were coming over so even if the ice wasn't very thick we decided to get them off. So one afternoon Jack, Percy and Astrid went over. We rounded them up and then I started out ahead with a pail of oats, with Jack, Tony and Percy following the sheep. All went well until about half way across when I heard the men shouting; thinking I was going too fast I turned to look, and lo and behold the sheep were falling into the lake. Fifty head had gotten across and there were thirty-one in the water. I went a bit further, put the pail down then ran back. The men said the last sheep went in first and then the others slipped in. Lucky for the men they were a ways behind. Jack ran home for ropes. Being lightest, I lay down on the ice near the hole and grabbed the nearest sheep, with the help of Percy and Tony we were able, before Jack returned, to get about six sheep out this way. When Jack returned and Alma with him, I'd put the rope on the sheep and the others pulled them out. We didn't lose one sheep even though they were in the water for about an hour, but the darn fools, as fast as we got them out, ran back to



Tony Hartman leaving island in boat and coaxing his dog to come along.

the island. Next day we went back and got them off again.

Next summer we again put them over. That fall we decided to bring them off in a cutter, with part of an old car body for a box. It held four sheep. This time Jack, Percy and Leonard Nilson and Alma went over. There was an open crack about 6' wide in the middle of the channel.

Percy and Leonard put on skates and when Jack and Alma brought sheep down on ropes to the shore, the sheep were put in the cutter with Percy and Leonard pushing. When they got near the crack they gave a hard shove, let the cutter go and then skated over the crack, unloaded sheep and went back for more. Next day the whole bay was open; so again another lucky escape.

That was the end of the sheep venture.

Next year we decided to put cattle over but several years of trouble getting cattle off and on, Percy and I decided enough was enough. Jack put them over for several more years, but after drowning a bull while taking him over, and several animals drowning when getting out on the ice in the fall before it was safe, Jack also decided to end his venture.

So the Island slumbers in silence and is a haven for birds of all kinds. The old shack still stands drowsing in the peaceful silence.

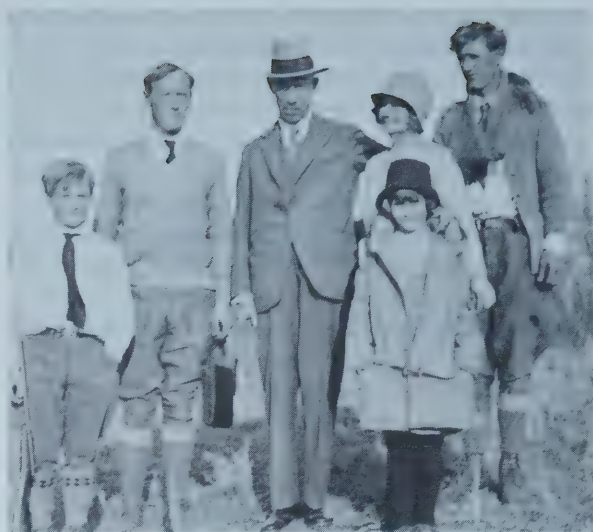
Hayes Family

The Hayes family came from Belfast, Ireland. They left Ireland following the death in May, 1874 of their father Dr. Robert Edmund Hayes who had become ill and died while caring for his patients during a flu epidemic. The eldest son Ned did not make the trip but settled in South Africa where he remained all of his life. The remaining members of the family consisting of Mrs. Hayes, Mable, Minnie, Louis, Jack and Herbert settled first in Winnipeg.

In approximately 1889 they moved to Bittern Lake. There they ranched and freighted with oxen to Edmonton. During this time Jack, the eldest of the three brothers, was C.P.R. Land Agent and Magistrate in Wetaskiwin.

In 1898 Mrs. Hayes, Jack, Minnie, Mabel and Herbert returned to Winnipeg. Louis decided to try his luck in the gold rush in the Yukon. He told of upsetting his boat and losing all his provisions in the river, but not of making his fortune.

Upon his return to Winnipeg, Herbert who enjoyed all sports, became a member of the Four man Winnipeg Rowing Team. They won a number of events and in the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen Competition; his team was successful in defeating the United States team from



Hayes family. Brian, Arthur, Uncle Louis Hayes, Mrs. Agnes Hayes, Arthur and Sheila in front.

Philadelphia. While this made them eligible to compete in the World Championships in England, lack of funds prevented their making the trip. The U.S. team, whom they had defeated, won the world title in England.

In 1903, Herbert, Louis, Mabel, Jack and their mother returned to Red Willow, Alberta and settled on the land known as the "Glen Hayes Ranch", named after the glens in Ireland. This land is now a part of the Red Willow Hutterite Colony.

Minnie remained in Winnipeg, where she had married Harold Anderson.

Shortly after this Jack went to Edmonton and later to Vancouver where he entered the real estate business.

In 1905 Mrs. Hayes and Mabel returned to Winnipeg but Herbert and Louis came to reside at Buffalo Lake purchasing the S.W. 1-41-20-W4 from the C.P.R. They built a frame house and in 1906 Herbert returned to Winnipeg and married Rachel Agnes Stead.

Agnes Stead was born in Eccles, Lancashire, England in June, 1881. Her mother was Scottish, from Oban, and her father English. Prior to coming to Canada in 1886 her father was Headmaster of a school in Eccles.

Following their marriage, Agnes and Herbert came by train to Edmonton and then travelled directly to their home at Buffalo Lake.

In addition to a small store, the first Post Office in the area known as "Monvel" was in their home. The first mail carrier was Vital Couteau who brought the mail from Lacombe. Monvel was later moved to Mr. Casteline's home.

In 1907 their eldest son Arthur Hayes was born.

On March 9th, 1907 the meeting for the formation of Skybo school was held at the Hayes Brothers Store. The Board elected at that meeting consisted of C. L. Hill, George LaRose, Harry Hearonemus as Chairman and Herbert Hayes as Secretary. The decision was made to proceed with the school and where Skybo School stands today, two acres were purchased from the C.P.R. for \$30.00. The tender accepted for construction of the school was \$585.00 plus \$15.00 for stonework.

At approximately this time Louis returned to Winnipeg where he became Assistant City-Treasurer, a position he held until his retirement. Each year until 1950, when he died, he returned in the fall to the ranch for his holidays. His love for the area is shown in the following poem which he wrote:

Wind of the West

Like the sound of a silver trumpet,
Out of the silence deep
What is that voice that calls me
When the winds from the Westland sweep?
'Tis the voice of the rangeland calling,
Where the pals of my boyhood be:
The voice of the wild-swan fluting
Over some inland sea:
The clarion call of the wild-geese,
As under the star-lit sky,
To the lonely lakes of the Northland
Their long, gray squadrons fly:
The voice of the night wind playing
'Mid the pines that guard the shore:
The voice of the mountain torrents,
And the rapids rush and roar.
That is the voice I am hearing,
And as I sit and dream,
I see the glow of a camp-fire,
'Neath the pines, by a western stream.
And soft as a distant echo
From the golden days of yore,
The voices of old-time comrades
Speak out of the past, once more.

L. C. Hayes

In 1908 Agnes and Herbert's house burned. The log house built to replace it still stands.

In 1910 a second son, Stewart was born.

In 1911 Herbert and Agnes with their two children moved to Hay Creek and later to Innisfail where Herbert managed the Duke of Sutherland's farms.

In 1913 the family moved back to their home at Buffalo Lake. They purchased and brought with them registered purebred Shorthorn cattle which the Duke of Sutherland had imported from England. The



Herbert Hayes Sr. with his bag of ducks.

Shorthorn herd on the Boss Hill Ranch today are descendents of the original cattle. At this time they also imported from France a registered Percheron stallion which sired many good colts in the district.

Doctors in the area were Dr. Oldright of Donalda and Dr. Clive Staples of Stettler. They went out whenever called in spite of terrible weather and road conditions. Dr. Staples' descendants still own the land he purchased which lies directly south of the present Provincial Park at Boss Hill.

Neighbors in the district at that time were Vital, Bruno, Bennett, Harry and Jake Hearonemus, George La Rose, William Louis, Tullican, Fred Holder, Louis Chequette, Joe Huard, E. D. Cole, W. C. Proctor, Jim Dew and Lothrop.

Fred Holder had a large sailboat in which he took parties out on Buffalo Lake. A bachelor, his specialty was making pancakes which he served to his guests on these occasions.

Each summer a picnic was held at Bar Harbour. A unique event of the picnic was the swimming race for horses, the horses being raced across a deep lagoon with the owner hanging on the mane.

Another event was the rowboat relay race where husband and wife rowed as a relay team, one across the lagoon, the other back. One competitor turned out to be a poor loser and when "ribbed" by his friends he expostulated "How could I win with that tub of lard in the back of the boat!"

Herbert Hayes was once called upon to officiate at the burial of a child, a minister not being available to perform the service. Later the bereaved family strung shroud cloth for a considerable distance through the trees. The cloth fluttered in the breeze and was supposed to keep the ghosts away.

During this period cattle were fed in the winter by horse and sleigh. Many times a load would upset as the sleigh would slide off the beaten track. Hay was put up in loose stacks and this meant loading and unloading by pitchfork.

Roads were built by men driving horses pulling a "slip", a small scoop with two handles attached. The slip scooped up earth which was then dumped where required to make the "grade". In later years a fresno was used. This was a larger scoop which required four horses and one very strong man who held down the one handle until the fresno was full. Gravel and snowplows were unheard of at that time.

In 1920 Brian Hayes was born, followed in 1922 by Sheila.

In 1924 the family purchased its first radio—a two-tube battery, radio with earphones. On a perfect night it would pick up Juneau, Alaska and Mexico City.

In 1926 Arthur and Stewart trapped sufficient muskrats and coyotes to obtain money to buy their first tractor, a 1924 Fordson.

In 1928 Herbert Hayes Senior died: the family remained on the farm.

Hayes Brothers grew their first registered grass seed in 1937 and 42 years later registered seed is still being raised.

In 1940 they purchased a 1910 Holt Caterpillar from A. C. Pearce of Drumheller. This was used to break up land both at home and in the district, as well as to grade roads. Grading of the road paid off a part of the municipal taxes.

During the 30's the Reverend Herbert, Anglican Minister from Stettler came once a month to Skybo School during the summer to hold service. In the winter the service was held at the home of Pete and Elsie Adams. Reverend Herbert would ride from Stettler, a box full of hymn and prayer books strapped behind the saddle. He never failed to come, regardless of the weather.

All the Hayes family attended Skybo School. The six mile round trip each day kept everyone physically fit. In the summer we would ride horses, in the winter either ski or snow-shoe.

For a small community Skybo was a very active one with a great deal of community spirit. The school took part in Musical Festivals, School Fairs and sports days. While doing well in all of these, it was particularly successful in sports, due in no small part to the excellent coaching of our teachers, commencing with Bill Wuest.

Agnes Hayes was very active in the community. She was Chairman of the Skybo School Board for many years. Along with Elsie Adams and Mrs. Fred Pellowe, she helped to train the children of Skybo for their participation in the Stettler Musical Festival. She was a member of the Skybo Ladies' Club and Secretary of the Vimy Ridge U. F. A. Local. She also helped to organize the Stettler School Fairs. In 1944 Sheila married Bill Proctor of the Lyncott district. After his graduation from the University of Alberta they spent two years at Macdonald College, McGill University in Quebec. Following his graduation from McGill they returned to Wetaskiwin where they still reside. Bill was employed as District Agriculturist with the Provincial Government until his retirement in 1977. They have three children, Norman, Colleen (McDiarmid) and Sally (Ogden).

Brian enlisted in the army in 1942 and remained until his discharge in 1946 when he returned to Alberta. In 1947 he married Lida Hart of Grande Ligne, Quebec. He worked with his brothers, until ill health forced him to leave the farm in 1962 when he and Lida and their two children moved to Stettler. Their son Charles is married with two children and lives in Saskatchewan and Micheal lives in Calgary.

Agnes Hayes died in 1974 and Arthur in 1979.

Stewart Hayes resides at Buffalo Lake, where he continues to raise grain and cattle.



Hayes Caterpillar 1910 (Dinny) with front steering wheel. Cat driven from Drumheller with old truck towed behind in 1924.

Hearonemus, Harry

Harry came the same time as Jake in 1901. He took his homestead four miles south in what is now Lyncott district. They brought their goods in settlers cars. Jake was in charge of the car with horses, and Harry in charge of the car with two cows, machinery and furniture.

In 1902 Harry built a small log house near Jake's cabin, so as to have a home for his family, who were still in North Dakota. Harry proved up on his homestead, but only lived there enough to claim it.

In December 1902 his wife Elizabeth, with children Emma 12, Nettie 10, and Lloyd 2, arrived in Lacombe. They had to stay there a week, as Harry had not received their letter, because he hadn't been to Lamerton, the closest Post Office, a distance of



Wilf and Kathryn Hearonemus and grandfather Harry Hearonemus with their bag of ducks.

twenty-five miles. The time of stay included Christmas Day.

The lake was very high when the Hearonemuses arrived and the narrows had sixteen feet of water. Emma remembers the sloughs were very full, with dead trees in them. The 1870's and 1880's had been very dry and in the 1890's it started to rain. Elizabeth said it rained almost continuously the first three years they were here.

In 1903 Jake and Harry joined the two houses and the center was used as a kitchen which gave them more room. In 1904, Harry bought S $\frac{1}{2}$ 3-41-20-W4 and built their permanent home there. They lived in this home, about 24' x 36', until Harry died in 1940 and Elizabeth in 1951. It is still standing.

In 1905 Emma went back to North Dakota to finish her education. She stayed with her grandmother. In the spring of 1907 when Emma came back to the homestead, she remembers seeing hundreds of dead cattle along the railway track, as the winter of 1906-07 had been the severest ever. This time,



Harry and Elizabeth Hearonemus Golden Wedding. Front, Wilf, Harry Hearonemus, Vera Johnstone, Elizabeth Hearonemus, Kathryn Hearonemus, Jake Hearonemus and wife Agnes. Standing behind Harry are daughters. Son Lloyd, with his son Henry, rest are grandchildren and sons-in-law.

Emma was able to come by rail from Lacombe to Stettler, as the Canadian Pacific Railway had in 1906 reached Stettler.

The two shorthorn cows became the foundation for the purebred herd which Harry built up. When Harry died Lloyd continued the herd, and Henry (Lloyd's son) still has purebred shorthorns.

Emma married Ben Trayer in 1910. She had taught Skybo when it opened. They farmed in the Rockeling Bay district. In the late 1940's they moved to Erskine area and later to Stettler, when they retired. They lived there until moving to Bashaw Valley Lodge, where Ben died and Emma still lives. They had one daughter Jenny who married Harvey Scott. Harvey is dead, their children are Hazel, Glen and Larry.

Nettie married Frank Johnstone from Liberal district, their ten children were Lloyd, Clifford, Mabel, Merle, Willard, Arnie, Gerald, Bob, Glen and Vera. Frank and Nettie are dead and children scattered around.

Lloyd married Rosa Bousfield in 1919, a teacher from Nova Scotia who taught at Skybo. They built their home in Harry and Elizabeth's yard.

They raised purebred Shorthorns, raised chickens and guinea hens. Both were very active in church and community work. Their three children were Henry, Wilfred and Kathryn.

Henry married Muriel Brodie from Liberal. At first they lived on Harry Hearonemus homestead, then moved to Muriel's folks farm, where they still live. They have two children Audrey and Wayne.

Wilfred married Viola Richmond from Willow Park district. After he finished high school Wilfred joined the services. On his discharge, he moved to Calgary where they still live. Children are Debbie and Darlene.

Kathryn married Oliver Steward from Meeting Creek. They lived for awhile in Stettler then moved to Dawson Creek. Their family are Oliver, Karen and Rodney.

Rosa died in 1963. In 1967 Lloyd sold his farm to Dick Rider and moved to Bashaw where he died in 1975.

Once when Lloyd was little he insisted on fishing through the ice. He hooked a big one and lucky for him his Dad was close or he might have been pulled into the lake.

Lloyd had an ice boat and many were the good times had sailing it.

Hearonemus, Jake

Jake and his brother Harry came in 1901 from North Dakota. Jake was a bachelor, but Harry left his family in North Dakota until they could get land. They brought with them cattle, horses etc. in two settlers cars.

Jake filed on N.W. 12-41-20-W4 and this became home for the two of them for a few years. Harry's homestead was four miles south.



The two homestead houses Jake and Harry Hearonemus joined to make one house, situated on Jake's homestead.

On Jake's homestead was a log house, about twelve by fourteen feet, in this they lived until Harry's family came, then Harry moved into a small log house he had built.

In 1906 Jake married Agnes Pool from Scotland. They now lived in a log house that had been joined to the one Harry had built. In 1913 they built a frame house twenty-four by thirty-six feet; with a basement, the walls of which were rocks. Percy Riders still live in this house, but they moved it about $\frac{3}{8}$ mile north of the original site.

Jake and Agnes adopted a son George and a daughter Alice.

Jake farmed and ran cattle.

When the Methodist Church was formed in Donalda, Jake became an official board member,



Jake and Agnes Hearonemus with son George, off on a Sunday jaunt.

representing the Skybo area. This was about 1915. About 1920 Jake sold his farm to A. C. Anderson and went to Vancouver Island, but returned in about two years and made their home on the E $\frac{1}{2}$ -18-41-19-W4, which he had bought before going to British Columbia.

Agnes was very active in the Skybo Ladies Club. George along with Archie MacDonald for many years played at the local dances. George played the accordion. In 1937 George married Hattie Anderson from the Rockeling Bay district. They built a house just north of Jake and Agnes' house. They had two daughters — Myrtle and Norma.

George joined the services and after his discharge, George, Hattie and girls moved to Bashaw, where George worked in the creamery. He later moved to Ponoka and became manager of that creamery until his retirement in 1977. George and Hattie still live in Ponoka.

In 1946 Jake and Agnes sold their farm to the Hayes. They moved their house into Stettler and lived there. Jake died in 1952 at the age of 96, Agnes died a few years later.

Alice left the Skybo district when about sixteen to go to work. She was in Calgary for a time.

Myrtle is a radio announcer and for several years, she and her husband were in radio work in Auckland, New Zealand.

Norma took up nursing. She is married, has two children, and nurses.

Hill, Charles

Charlie Hill and his family came from the State of Washington in 1905 by wagon; there was Charlie, his wife, son Harry and daughter Inez. Charlie's homestead was S.E. 12-41-20-W4 on which Gary Rider now lives. Harry's homestead was N.E. 12-41-20-W4. He did not build on his, but it being next to his

dads was able to file although only sixteen. Emma Trayer said Harry never walked if he could ride, even between house and barn if a horse was handy. Charlie Hill was on the first school board.

Inez married a Sodburg and moved to Alix district. In 1910 Hills left the district and went to New Mexico.

Hines, Dan

Dan Hines, his wife and daughter Erma came to this area about 1904. He homesteaded N.W. 18-41-20-W4 (80 acres). For about ten years the Hines ran a dance hall. The hall was a large building made of logs with a lovely dance floor. Dances were held every two weeks. Wentworth Orchestra from Whitebush supplied the music. One of the first floor managers was Ben Trayer Jr. One week Mrs. Hines supplied the lunch, the alternate times the patrons supplied it. Dancers came from as far as Wetaskiwin, especially in winter.

There was a lovely beach and good swimming at Hines place for many years.

When Mrs. Hines died, Dan went to the United States.

Erma married Jack Jackson, who homesteaded three miles west of Donaldda. They had three children; Glen, Irene and Billy. In the 1920's the Jack Jacksons moved to British Columbia except for Glen who stayed with his relatives the Ed Henleys. When Henleys died Glen went to British Columbia but wasn't there long before he was killed in an auto accident.

Fred Holder

Fred Holder lived about a mile north of where the Proctors lived. He was well liked by everyone. One of his favorite things was sports.

Fred was the instigator of the U.F.A. picnics at



Fred Holder, Herbert Hayes Sr. Eileen Anderson sitting on a log near Boss Hill.

Bar Harbor in the 1920's. People came for miles to attend these. These picnics consisted of water horse racing in the lagoon at the Bar. There were also boat races and racers would come from across the lake to enter these races, often towing one or two boats behind the one they were rowing. These would be rented out to anyone without a boat who wished to enter the races.

Other races were flat races, jumping and many other sports, which were part of any picnic at that time. Also there was a booth and big picnic lunch for all.

Fred was a good farmer. He died in the mid 1930's.

Hollingsworth

The Hollingsworths lived on what is known as the Backstrom place, just east of Bar Harbour. Though not in the Skybo district, it was the closest school and the children went there. The children were: Art, Eva and another girl (name unknown).

The Hollingsworths left the Skybo district about the end of World War 1 and went to the Rocky Mountain House area. Eva lives in Rocky Mountain House and works in a drug store. Art lives on a farm near Leedale. The other daughter lives at Eckville and is married to Mr. S. Brown.

Huard

Mr. and Mrs. Huard with sons Joe, Louie, Demis and Ernest came to the district in about 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Huard homesteaded just south of the Hayes. Joe's homestead was N.W. 6-41-20-W4 and Louie's was S.W. 6-41-20-W4. They both built log houses.

Joe Huard married Madge Van Dyke from Buena Vista area. In the fall Joe used to run the separator on Harry Hearonemus' threshing outfit.

Joe and Madge's daughter Bernice went to Skybo school.

Louie was also married. Joe and Louie and families left a Skybo district in 1920.

When Mr. Huard died, Mrs. Huard ran an eating place for awhile, Demis and Ernest went to school at Skybo.

Earl Lagore

The Earl Lagores came to the area when Ledbetters left. They moved the house out to the road, which runs west towards Bar Harbour.

Earl's wife was the former Mary Dykstra, a sister of Bob Dykstra, Esther Whitford and Dave Dykstra.

Earl and Mary had a family of twelve children.

Not all the children went to Skybo, but some of them did.

In the late 1940's, Earl and Mary, with the younger children moved to Stettler and Earl did carpenter work until his death. Mary still lives in Stettler.

Edward LaRose

Ed LaRose, his wife Louise, and children, lived east of the Skybo School on S.E. 7-41-19. Louise was the daughter of Donald Whitford. Ed was a brother of George LaRose.

Their four children Mary, Mabel, Gordon and Ellen attended school at Skybo. Several younger children were not old enough to attend.

Ed did some farming on his own land and also worked for other farmers. He hunted extensively, especially muskrats. In those days muskrats were very plentiful, and even though they only sold for ten cents a piece, a person could often get fifty of them a day. This brought in much needed money for many families.

Ed LaRose and his family left the Skybo area in the mid-1920's. They went to the Pigeon Lake area, then later to Vilna. Ed and Louise are both dead.

Mary married and lived at Prince George. Mary and Mabel came to the Skybo Reunion in 1967. Mary has since passed away. Mabel was married and lived in Peace River country. Gordon was out around Rocky Mountain House. The whereabouts of the rest of the family is unknown.

George LaRose

Mr. LaRose was born in 1867 and came to Calgary about 1884 from North Dakota. He worked for awhile on the portion of the railroad that runs through Golden, British Columbia.

George drove freight between Calgary and Edmonton for some time using horses and wagons — this was for the Hudson's Bay Company. When the freighting job ended, he worked in the Hudson's Bay Company Store in Calgary for five years. There were few buildings in Calgary at that time.

George also worked on the construction of the railway between Calgary and Edmonton. He then settled in Wetaskiwin where he managed a livery barn. Much of his time was spent taking settlers through the country to find the land on which they wished to settle.

In 1897 he married Susan Baxter; to this union ten children were born; Frank, Ernest, Pearl, Ted, Louie, Eva, Permelia, Roy, Mae and Pendelton (Penny). Those still living are Pearl of California, Louie of Kelowna, Roy of Stettler, Penny of Donalda and Mae of Stettler.

When Mr. LaRose left Wetaskiwin, about 1902 he settled in the Meeting Creek district for a short time. Not happy there, he gave up the homestead and moved on N.W. 4-41-19-w4, twelve miles north of Stettler where they lived the remainder of their lives.

His first interests were raising draft horses for sale to homesteaders and also a good herd of cattle. Later he enjoyed mixed farming.

Louie La Rose

Louie and his wife Ruth, bought the N.W. 6-41-19 when they were married in the early 1930's. Ruth, whose maiden name was Gale, grew up in Stettler. Louie is the third son of George La Rose. Their three sons Donald, Irvin and Neil were born on the farm.

One Christmas Concert at Skybo, when Donald was about two years old he got frightened at the clapping and started to howl. Nothing Louie or Ruth did could quiet him and they finally had to take him home.

In the spring of 1938 Louie and his family sold their farm to Don Haggerty of Donalda. They moved to Stettler, and here their daughter Eileen was born.

Louie did dray work and dry-walling while living in Stettler. They remained in Stettler until the end of World War II, when they moved to British Columbia.

When the children were grown Ruth joined a rock group and made some lovely jewellery. Later she took up picture and article making with glass balls and glass chips. Louie and Ruth are retired and live in Kelowna.

Donald lives in Vancouver and is a school councillor. Irvin is married and lives in Coleman. Neil is married and lives in Kelowna. Eileen, whose married name is Mrs. Claude Newsham, lives on a farm at Innisfail.

Lawrences

The Lawrences: Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence, Edna and Ralph, lived where Nels Neilson lived for years. Edna used to drive a distance of five or six miles across country, to Skybo school. On the way, she would pick up Delta McHaffey. Many were the experiences they had. Most of the time Edna came to Skybo in the summer, because it was too long and cold to drive in the winter. Edna would then go to Stettler to stay with her sister and go to school there.

Around 1920 the Lawrences moved to Bashaw when they sold their farm to the Raynors. In Bashaw, Edna married James Marshall. James Marshall had a Real Estate Business in Bashaw. James was also chairman of the annual Lakeside Municipal meeting for many years, which was held at Skybo school.

They had a daughter. James is dead, but Edna lives in Bashaw Valley Lodge and is still very active.

(Dad) Ledbetter

The Ledbetters farmed southeast of Hayes about one mile on Jack Knife Lake. There were Mr. and Mrs. Ledbetter and daughter Rita, along with Mrs. Ledbetter's sons Arthur and Harold Webb by a former marriage. The children all went to Skybo school.

Mrs. Ledbetter was a wonderful cook. If a person dropped in at mealtime, they were always asked to partake of the meal. Her favorite expression was, "If I'd known you was coming, I'd of had something more cooked." The table, as the saying goes, was groaning as it was.

They left in the 1920's.

William Lewis

William Lewis homesteaded the N.W. 18-41-19-W4. His nickname was "Chicken Lewis."

William built his house in the middle of the quarter. In 1910, William Lewis sold his land to the Herbert Hayes Sr. and left the Skybo area.

Lickert, Derek

Derek and Julie with children Juanito, Pablo and Bobby bought the Camenish place from Don Sharkey in 1974 and moved here from Calgary. Derek is an airline mechanic and works in the Northwest Territories. Julie is from Spain. Juan works in Calgary and the other two boys go to school in Donalda. Ron and Gary Rider farm the land and Gary looks after their cattle.

Lyle, Gordon

Gordon (Swede) Lyle, Della and Doug came from Liberal and rented the Jake Heater place in 1943.

Doug rode a little black pony to school. It was very sure footed, as a person would see him riding up and down the banks. The Gordon Lyles moved back to the Liberal district in 1946.

Alfred Mann

Alfred Mann was another bachelor who came in the early 1900's. His home was located about a half mile southwest of Hayes. When World War I broke out, he like Norman Christie, enlisted and went overseas.

After the war, Alfred returned to his homestead. Several years later, Norman Christie's sister Ann came for a visit and as with many girls in those days, she stayed and married a local bachelor, who in this instance was Alfred Mann. Their little house still stands and the place is owned by Herbert Hayes.



Alfred Mann's home taken in 1973.



The little log house in the back.

The Manns adopted two children, Teddy and Bessie. They both went to Skybo school for several years.

When the Norman Christie's moved to Stettler, the Manns also moved there. Ann died a few years later. Alfred went to live with his daughter Bessie and family in Edmonton. He died several years ago. Teddy is in British Columbia.

Mansen, Pete

Pete Mansen came from the Mirror District in 1950 and bought the Pellowe place. He was a bachelor and was nicknamed 'Dogfish'. He claimed he had once been married, but when his wife got bossy he walked out on her.

When Pete went to town he always took his two dogs and his goat with him. Pete never had a car or tractor. In summer he went in the democrat and in winter his bobsled.

Pete hated hunters and if he heard any shooting, no matter whose land they were on, he would go out yelling at them in no uncertain language.

Most people avoided his place at night, as often, if he heard a noise, he would be out yelling like a banshee and scare the person half to death.

He hauled bundles in the fall on the threshing outfit. Men hated it as he would go out, throw a rack full on helter-skelter and then come in to be unloaded, also, there were only half as many bundles on as should have been, and the next person really had to work hard and fast so the machine wouldn't be waiting.

In the late 1960's Pete sold his land to Don Sharkey and moved to the Dorenlee area. He died there several years later.

Minkler

Very little is known about Mr. Minkler but he lived and farmed on the peninsula. His farm was probably the McBride homestead, which John Wickham bought.

McBride

McBride bought his land west of the Bill Rider place and lived there for awhile. When he left the McKeown's lived there until they built their house on N.E. 14-41-20-W4. The McBride place was then bought by John Wickham.

Henry McCallister

Henry McCallister was married to Lisa Whitford, a sister of Mrs. Louie Todd and Mrs. Flora Chalmers. Mr. and Mrs. McCallister and family lived north west of Skybo corner. There were five children in the family; Margaret, Lottie, Frank, Louise and Lothan, most of whom went to Skybo School. Henry hunted in the winter.

They went to Wabamun area after they left Skybo in the 1920's. Later some of the family were in Edmonton. Henry McCallister was killed by a train several years ago.

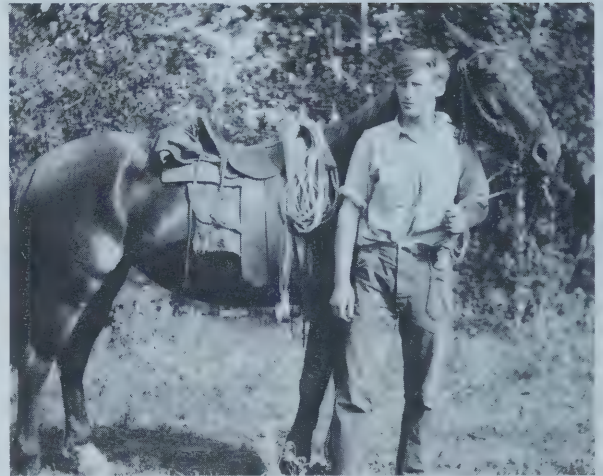
Frank McKeown

Mr. and Mrs. Frank McKeown bought the N. 14-41-20-W4 in about 1916. They had two sons: Robert (Bob), and Arnold. In the fall of 1918 when Mrs. McKeown and Rosa Bousfield (Hearonemus) were going to visit Bessie (Mrs. Tom Rider) and her new daughter Marjorie, the tongue of the wagon broke and scared the horses so they ran away. Mrs. McKeown was thrown out and broke her leg, and even though set, had trouble with it for years.

When Mr. McKeown died, Mrs. McKeown with son Arnold moved to Stettler. She worked for the



Mrs. Frank McKeown.



Bob McKeown ready for the round up.

Wheat Pool and lived in the Stack Block while Arnold finished his schooling.

Bob stayed on in the Skybo district. He worked for awhile for Pete Adams and batched on the Backstrom place. Bob dug the basement for the Vimy Ridge School when they put it on a basement.

In 1931 Mrs. McKeown, Bob and Arnold went to the United States. Bob joined the marines and he had just left Pearl Harbor when it was bombed. Bob is married and he and his wife live in Sedona, Arizona, with their two children, Jerry and Ann.

They visited their friends in the Skybo district a few years ago. Bob said, in a tape to the Hayes Brothers, that the winter of 1978-79 was very cold in Sedona.

Mrs. McKeown died several years ago. Arnold was married but now is also dead.

McTaggart

Duncan and Agnes McTaggart came to the Peninsula about 1916. They had lived at Rowley, Springbank and Calgary before moving to the Skybo area. Agnes McTaggart was the mother of Susan Hall, Andrew Wilson, Janet Dankwith, and Agnes (a daughter married and living in Australia). Mrs. McTaggart came to Canada in 1911 with Andrew, Janet and Susan, after the death of her husband in a mining accident. She was then Mrs. Wilson.

She married Duncan McTaggart about 1915. He was a widower with children; Katie, Archie, Janet, Bessie and Margaret.



Mr. and Mrs. Duncan McTaggart.

In 1918 their home burned and they built a small house, as by this time many of the children were out on their own. In 1920 when A. C. Anderson bought the farm, which the McTaggart's had rented, they moved to the Fortner place east of Donalda, near where the Gus Normans were at that time living. Mrs. Agnes (Wilson) McTaggart that same year went back to Scotland for a visit. In 1930 they bought a farm east of Ibsen School next to the Colonel Clifford place, where later the Ewings lived. In 1937 Duncan died and Mrs. McTaggart moved back in the little house they had built in 1919. Susan had married Tracy Hall, and they, with their daughters, Elaine, Beth and Bernice moved to the Peninsula farm in 1928. In 1941, Susan and children moved to the Todd farm after Tracy joined the Army. Mrs. McTaggart moved to Bashaw for a while, as her daughter Janet, who was a widow, was living there. About 1944 when Janet moved to Strathmore, Mrs. McTaggart moved out to where Susan lived. She died several years later, about 1950.

Archie worked around Skybo area until war time, when he moved away.

Margaret moved to Edmonton.

Janet took a normal course, taught for a while at Skybo. She is now married and lives in Revelstoke.

Bessie is in the United States, and Katie is at Springbank.

Nighdis

The Nighdis came into the Skybo District at the end of World War I. They rented the S.W. 14-41-20-W4 from Oscar Olsen who had bought the land from Tom Rider.

Their daughter Leona went to school at Skybo. They lived for several years here, then left. Their whereabouts are unknown.

Sven Norman

Sven and Myrtle Norman rented the farm from Don Haggerty, equipped with cattle and machinery and sheep. Cattle included both beef and dairy cows. They arrived in the spring of 1941.

In 1942 Sven ran a bus route, using a buggy in summer and sleigh in winter. His pupils were Marguarite, Teddy, Jean and Jackie LaRose. They came to Skybo School as there were too few pupils at Lyncott. Sven's route ran across country from his place to the Ted LaRose place; a distance of about three miles.

In 1944 Don Haggerty sold the farm to Ferd Schultz and the Normans moved to the Hazel Grove district. From there they moved to the Pilot Knob area where they still live.

They have a son Douglas, who is married and works with the Alberta Youth Program. Douglas and his wife Joanne and two children live on the first farm Sven and Myrtle had in the Pilot Knob District.

Pellowe

Fred and Mollie Pellowe with children; Wilfred, Barney and Mary lived on the fraction west of Hines. It was owned by Mollie's brother Mr. Cloterbreck. They came about 1926.

Fred and Mollie were both good musicians and played for many dances. Mollie also gave violin lessons.

In 1936 they moved to the Emdee place south of Skybo School and in 1937 they moved to Stettler. In 1940 they went to eastern Canada when Fred re-enlisted, both are now dead. Wilfred and Mary live in Ontario. Barney's whereabouts are unknown.

Rider, Tom

Tom Rider arrived with his parents, brothers and sisters at Lamerton in 1905 from Oklahoma. His folks bought land six miles east of Lamerton. Later



Picture taken at Jack Riders. Back row — Vivian Rider, Diane Rider, Barbara Bennett, Ken Meyers. Second row — Bob Conibear, Betty Rider, Jim Conibear, Violet Meyers, Gary Rider. Front row — Dick Rider, Gail Rider, Gay Hammarberg.

his dad, brother Bill, his brother-in-law George Andrews, and himself came to the east end of Buffalo Lake. Tom Rider Sr. filed on homestead N.W. 14-41-20-W4, Bill on S.E. 22-41-20-W4, and George on N.E. 22-41-20-W4.

In 1910 Tom married Elizabeth (Bessie) Pipe who, with her brother Alfred, had come over from Woodbridge, England in 1906.

Tom had built a log house about twenty-four feet square on his homestead. Tom Rider Sr. did not live on his homestead land but sold it. Tom's house was built near the shores of Buffalo Lake, so had a plentiful supply of water. Tom, Jack and Percy were born on the homestead. In 1915 Tom sold his land to Oscar Olsen and bought a quarter and eighty acres across the road allowance west, but still on the lake shore. Alfred and Marge were born here. In 1920 (March) Tom died of the Spanish Flu, leaving Bessie with five small children. In the fall of 1920, Bessie's youngest brother Allan came from England to help her. While here he bought N½ 14-41-20-W4. He helped teach the boys to farm and break land on their place, as well as his place. In 1929, when Tom was eighteen, Allan went back to England and got married. Bessie and the boys farmed the land until her death in 1937.

In 1954, Allan and his wife Nellie spent six months visiting friends and relatives around the lake.

In 1940, Tom moved east of Bashaw. He farmed there for two years, then bought his grandfather's

homestead east of Lamerton. He married Barbara Riebel, who had moved from south eastern Alberta with her folks to the Bashaw area in 1937. They have two daughters, Sheila who married Bill Johnson, whose Dad homesteaded two miles north of Buena Vista, and Corinne who is still at home.

In 1934 Jack married Alma Hammarberg. When Tom moved to the Bashaw area, Jack bought his Dad's old place and they moved there from the Bill Rider place, which Jack had bought before he was married. Jack raises purebred horned Herefords. Alma and Jack still live in their home on the shore of Buffalo Lake.

Jack and Alma raised four children. Orlene, who married Johnnie Cire from Bashaw. They had four children and lived in Dawson Creek. Orlene is dead and Johnnie and children still live in Dawson Creek.

Oris married Nell Chinn, great-granddaughter of Harry Hearonemus. Oris farms with his dad, and has the only flock of sheep in this area now. Oris and Nell are much involved with church work and the Co-op. Their children are Karen, Nancy, Jane and Murray. When Pete Adams sold out, Oris bought his farm and that is where they live. Oris' children go to school in Stettler.

Vivian married Otto Fordor from Bluffton area and they live there. Vivian and Otto have a large dairy farm. They have three sons and two daughters.



Percy, Tom and Jack Rider, Marge Rider and Edna Tate sitting on chair.



Mrs. Elizabeth Rider with sons Jack and Tom behind and Percy, Marjorie on her lap and Alfred.

Betty married Jerry Olsen of Bashaw. They live in Edmonton, and have adopted twin daughters.

Percy married Astrid Hammarberg and they bought the Jake Hearonemus homestead and live there. Percy and Astrid also own Percy's dad's homestead as well as the Beugin and Harry Hill homesteads. They have five children. Percy and his three sons farm together. Each son has his individual land and cattle herd. Ron lives at home. Ron curls and plays slow ball and is actively involved with recreation.

Diane married Mel Hay from Swift Current and they live in Bashaw. Mel owns a concrete products plant. Diane is an R.N. and works part time at the clinic in Bashaw. Diane and their daughters Dorene and Yvonne spend much time on the farm.

Gary married Sharon Peters from Bashaw. Gary bought the Emdee place and have their home there. They have two sons, Darren and Troy and a daughter Lorri-Lynn, who all go to school in Donalda. Boys are involved in hockey and other sports as well as 4-H Dairy. Gary plays hockey, slow ball, curls and coaches the young hockey and baseball players.

Gail married Ted Schoff from Consort and they live five miles north east of Bashaw. They have a son Trevor and two daughters Norine and April. Trevor plays hockey.

Dick married Linda McRae from Calgary. Dick bought Lloyd Hearonemus place and has built his home across from his folks. Dick plays hockey and slow ball. They have one son Christopher.

Alfred, the youngest of the four Rider boys, married Midge Zuelke in 1939. They lived for a

while on the Frank Zuelke place which they had bought. In 1947 they moved to Falkland, B.C. In 1952 they came back to their farm, and in 1953 moved to the Oscar Olson farm one mile south of Donalda, which they rented. In 1967 they bought the Jack Trayer homestead and farmed there, until 1975 when they moved to Bashaw, where they now live. Their daughter Sherry married Eddie Lowther and their children are Al and Adriene. Sherry took nurses-aide and works in Alberta Hospital, Ponoka. Wayne, Alf's son, joined the air force and took his training. He is at present at Cold Lake.

Marjorie married Charles Zuelke from the Up-to-Date area in 1939. They rented the Repp place until 1947 when they also moved to Falkland. They live at Oliver, B.C. and family are Sharon, Grant and Mark.

Reminiscences

Astrid Rider

One cold, blustery winter evening, not many months after I had received my R.N. diploma, I was at home on the farm and a knock came at the door. When I opened it Harry Conibear said, "Astrid, Mrs. Ordge's baby is on they way. Can you come?" Hurredly grabbing my scissors, alcohol and some grocery twine and putting on a heavy coat, I followed him to the sleigh. Luckily it was only a mile to Ordges as it was very cold and snowing.

When we arrived at Ordges, Harry dropped me off and left. I tell you I was scared. My first attempt at delivering a baby, twenty-five miles from the nearest doctor and hospital, on a very stormy night. (No snow plows in those days, so no chance of getting a doctor through.)

About half an hour later I ushered into the world young Jimmy Ordge, a brother for Alex, Pat, Bill, John and Margaret. I offered up a prayer of thanks because I knew God had to be at my side.

That baby is now known as "Jimmy Arthur Ordge" who made such songs as "Irena Cheyenne" and "Muktuk Annie" famous country songs.

Next morning I went home to help August with the chores. Every morning for the next week, I walked over to Ordges to bath Mrs. Ordge and baby. Then I would wash the clothes and make a meal for Mrs. Ordge and the children at home, John and Margaret. These two young tots looked after their mother until Alex, (about twelve) and Pat and Bill came from school. They then did the cooking and cleaning needed.

Jack was a coal miner and stayed at the mine, but after the baby was born came home each night until Mrs. Ordge was able to do the work.

When I left, Jack said, "Astrid, I haven't any money but could you take some coal for the work you've done?" I said okay.

A week later it turned warm and snow melted, so one day Jack Rider, who needed coal also and I each took a wagon and went to Ordges mine. It was situated on the Battle River, east of Melvin Andersons. That night Jack slept at the coal miners' shack and I stayed with Oscar Normans, who lived just above the coal mine. Next morning we left for home and can remember thinking I didn't care for the crossing at Mike Dickey's, but decided if Jack could make it, guess I could.

Shortly after we passed Donalds, I ran the rim off one of my wagon wheels. After much struggling, Jack and I got it back on. Jack found some wire and wrapped around it. In late afternoon we got to our place (Hammarberg) but Jack still had another eight miles to go, so after resting his horses, proceeded home.

Several years later, after I was married, Percy said one morning, "Harry is sure in a hurry this morning. Wonder what he wants?" I soon knew as ten minutes later young James Conibear appeared on the scene. Francis was taking them to the hospital in his coupe and when they got to Skybo corners Alice said, "Go to Percy's. I'll never make it to Stettler." "That evening as Percy was going for the cows, he found a piece of running board and a piece of fender along the trail. Francis wasn't losing any time; we lived back from the road then.

When Bob and Jim were having a fight several years later, Bob said to his mother, "I don't see why Percy and Astrid had to send their orneriest kid to our house."

One morning Pete Peters drove at high speed into our yard, "Astrid, can you come? Gary has just started off for Stettler with Sharon and Vi, but Sharon thinks she won't get there in time." Away we went and caught them just at Ferds. They stopped and Vi and Sharon got in the "Charger" with us. Gary was shaking so badly he would have soon hit the ditch anyway. He returned to dress Darren and we proceeded to Stettler.

"Have you ever driven down the Skybo road and east past Proctors at one hundred miles an hour?" Finally I said, "Pete, I've delivered a baby before." I was praying to myself, because the doctors in Bashaw had said it was to be breech and I had never delivered one before. When we were about five miles from Stettler young Troy arrived with a mighty howl, buttocks first. Few seconds later Sharon said, "I didn't hear you slap him." I said, "No need, He's got powerful lungs." In their hurry, Vi and Sharon

had forgotten the suitcase so nothing to wrap the baby in and nothing to tie or snip the cord.

When we arrived at the hospital I hastened in for help and luckily Dr. Malcolm was handy and hurried out to the car. He took one look and said, "Oh, my!" Now I don't know if he was remarking about Sharon and the baby, my dishevelled appearance or Vi in her dressing gown.

After getting Sharon and baby safely settled, we felt in need of coffee, but with our appearances felt the restaurant was out so we went to Dave Dennis'. Shortly after we left, Gary and Darren arrived; but not being able to see the Charger, he decided we must have taken the other road and were probably by the wayside so away he went. Not being able to find us he went on home and got there just in time for Sharon's call to tell him he had another son.

I delivered other babies but none as sensational as these three. In all instances my prayers were answered, as I've never lost a baby or a mother.

Rider, William

Bill, with his wife Ella and small daughter Edith, came to Lamerton in 1905, from Oklahoma when the rest of the Riders came. In 1907 they moved to their log home on S.E. 22-41-20-W4, on the peninsula. Three more daughters were born here, Lillian, Violet and Rosie.

Bill Rider loved gardening, every year he grew great quantities of strawberries. He also liked duck and upland game hunting. Ella was a good cook, had a great many house plants and did lots of knitting. She knitted quite a number of dresses.

Edith married Roy Clovis and lived for awhile on the Emdee place. Lillian married Louie Smith.



Bill Rider family with sons-in-law and grandchildren. Bill second from left in back row and wife Ella on far right in back row.

In 1930 Bill and rest decided to go north. In June they left, after their farm sale. Bill, Ella, Violet and Rosie went by car.

Roy, Edith, small children Mildred, Marvin and Violet left with their goods loaded on a hayrack. Lillian, Louie and their two boys Harry and Billy also went by team and hayrack.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Clovis, Roy's parents, though in their sixties, also loaded their things in a hayrack. Mr. Clovis took along about thirty extra horses, these they changed off (those that were broke) on the wagons. It took them until mid August to reach Fort St. John. One place, they had to cross the river on a



Ella Rider with one of her many dresses she knit.

railway bridge. None of the horses, except a large stallion, would cross the bridge, so they hooked him to the end of the wagons, unloaded some of the goods on each wagon so it wouldn't be too heavy, and had to make four trips. The rest of the horses swam the river

Roy had two more sons, Rodney and Lyle. Louie's three girls and one boy were born at Ft. St. John.

Violet married and has a family of four.

Rosie married and has two children.

Salmon, George

George Salmon was born in the city of Turo, Cornwall, England the fourth son in a family of eight children belonging to Dr. A. L. Salmon, a well



George Salmon, his dog and one of the many canes he made.

known surgeon throughout the country of Cornwall.

In August, 1904, when he was sixteen years old, he and his brother Alex, eighteen, left home to come to Canada. They arrived in Calgary and the first work found was stooking grain on a farm in the Edwell district near Three Hills. Later that winter he got work on a ranch in that area. He worked there until March, 1906. In this time he learned much about ranch life, taking part in cattle roundups, haying, building fences and corrals and hauling to feed cattle during the winter.

His brother Alex, who had moved to the Alix area, wrote telling him of land around Buffalo Lake, which he thought would be suitable for homesteads. He left the Three Hills area in March of 1906, travelling on a saddle horse by way of Pine Lake and crossing the Red Deer River at Content. There was no bridge yet, but he was able to cross on the ice. On this trip he saw thousands of poplar sapplings stripped of bark by rabbits. The snow was mostly gone, but the rabbits were still white and looked like hundreds of small snow patches. He stayed overnight at a settlers' place, by the name of Bonham, where he had coffee made from roasted barley, which he said was a good substitute.

He located his brother working near Alix. They spent the next year and a half working around this area. That year was the unforgettable winter of 1906-



Edna Wells Salmon and her brother Frank when they were kids. Edna and Frank taken in 1979.

07, when many cattle either froze or starved to death, or had to be destroyed later in the spring because ravens had picked out the eyes of these weak animals.

That spring Alec went up to Buffalo Lake and homesteaded at the narrows. He stayed there that summer and built a log shack on the point of what was known as the peninsula. In the meantime George had bought a team and wagon and took on any jobs available.

In November he went with his brother Alec to look for a homestead for himself. On arriving at the shack they found mice had gotten into the flour, etc., that Alec had left in August, so they had no choice but to spend a cold, hungry night sleeping in the shack which has yet had no windows or door. They were lucky enough next day to get something to eat from Mrs. Hearonemus. The quarter (S.E. 24-41-20-W4) he chose to homestead was just north of the Hearonemus home.

Copied from Memos written by George Salmon:

After having looked the homestead over I decided I would file on it as the surrounding country for miles was of a rough nature, I thought there would be open range for several years.

I filed on my homestead on March 6th, 1908 and in May I drove with a team and wagon full of my belongings, made up of cookstove, flour, groceries, two 4 gallon cans of coal oil, saddle and harness for the team I was leading behind. It rained most of the way from Alix to the McCullough ranch, which lay midway between where Bashaw is now and the old post office at Whitebrush. I found my way from Whitebrush to Pearsons, at the head of Buffalo Lake, where I happened to run onto my brother Alec, who after tying his saddle horse alongside my team,

travelled with me on the wagon and showed me the trail around the lake which took us to my homestead, which we passed through Hearonemus' place, where I left my wagon and took the horses on through the peninsula to Alec's place, where he had a log shack. Next day we went through the peninsula looking for logs, all the best ones had been fire killed, so we cut enough (about 40) logs to build a shack and hauled them to the homestead. In the meantime, I borrowed a tent from Harry Hearonemus and lived in it until I had built the shack, I did little else that summer, except to cut brush in preparation for breaking the following summer. In July I went down to Stevensons who lived east of Lamerton and hayed with them'till about the end of August, from there I went to Alix and worked at the coal mine near Nevis all the winter of 1908-09. When I left in the spring I had saved a little more than \$200.00, which came in handy for a grub stake, I was also able to buy a walking plow for breaking, and a bed and mattress in Stettler.



George Salmon's barn and some of his prize Angus.

From this time on the late George Salmon lived on this homestead until his death in September, 1967.

He spent the first years batching in his log cabin, the nearest neighbors were the Hearonemus family and Riders on the peninsula and also his brother Alec, who owned what was later known as the Gallencamp.

George's brother Bruce filed on N.E. 24-41-20-W4, about 1910, and batched while living there for more than two years.

In 1914, August 4th, war broke out. Alec and Bruce joined the forces and went to France in September. Bruce died on New Year's Eve December 31st, 1914. His being the first military funeral in Edmonton. Alec was killed in action at Ypres.

On March 27, 1924 George married Edna Wells. She came to the province with her parents, one brother Frank and grandparents in 1899.

Six children were born to George and Edna. Bruce, Aline, Ruth, Alec, Edna (known as Bunny) and Frank.

The years went by, and the sons grew up. Much more land was bought, five sections in all. A company was formed "Geo. A. Salmon & Sons". (Ranches Ltd.)

Buffalo Lake Drilling Ltd. owned by Salmons and Ron Konschuh and Salmon Construction Ltd. At one time six D8's and one D7 caterpillars were owned and working, as far north as Atikameg. East to the boundary of Saskatchewan, south to Brooks and west to Rocky Mountain House. Also feedlot equipment that worked from Byemoor to Edmonton. Most of the work mentioned above was done by the three sons and hired help.

George's pride and joy were his purebred Aberdeen Angus cattle. Two cows, Esap and Ida, also a bull, bought from Mr. Stodart in 1938. The cows had been imported from Scotland a short time before.

In December, 1978, Alec, now an auctioneer, was selling in the Killam Auction Mart and was interested in some purebred Angus brought in and sold. Their pedigrees dated back to our two old cows Esap and Ida.

Alec's young son Danny also went through the Western Canada School of Auctioneering. At the age of thirteen he was the youngest licensed auctioneer in Canada. The brothers at one time owned Hardisty, Wainwright and Bashaw Auction Marts. They sold the last one in December, 1977.

When Bruce was fourteen, Alec nine and Elmer Heater (somewhere in between) started a little orchestra, Bruce played the accordion, Elmer played the banjo and Alec the drums, which he had to

borrow from Bert Brown in Bashaw. At the end of a long night of playing for school dances, they were paid \$3.00. Bruce received \$1.00, Elmer \$1.00, Alec \$.50 and Mr. Brown \$.50 for rent on the drums. Times and pay got better as the years went by. Alec still plays but changed the drums for a sax years ago. Of late he has played for many silver wedding dances, the couples being those, that twenty-five years ago he played for their wedding dances.

Pellows were wonderful neighbors of the long ago, living just a mile west of Salmons. Wilfred and Barney were the two sons and Mary the little daughter. Wilfred and Barney joined the forces in the second World War. When they were very young, Barney was a big strong boy and passed himself off for eighteen when he enlisted, he was only sixteen.

We never saw the boys after the war. Their parents, Fred and Molly, had moved to Montreal and I believe the boys went there after returning.

Anyone knowing Molly could never forget her. She helped us all, young, old and in between.

George and Edna have twenty-five grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren. Aline married and lives in Stettler. She and her husband Roy LaRose have eight children and ten grandchildren. Ruth lives in Camrose. She has five children and five grandchildren. Bunny lives in Red Deer with her two children.

Bruce died in 1975 leaving a family of four, and one grandchild born after his death.

Alec and his wife Shirley live on the original home place with two sons at home and two sons working at Red Deer.

Frank and his wife Hadie also live on the home place with their four sons and Bruce's youngest son. Donald and Eldon, their two eldest are attending school in Stettler.

With ten Salmon grandsons, George's name should live on for a long time.

Ferd Schultz

Ferd Schultz bought three quarters of 6-41-19-w4 from Don Haggerty in 1944. He came from the Bashaw area. He bought cattle, sheep and machinery with the place. His brother Dave was with him for awhile. For quite a number of years Ferd milked cows, and no one could go down to his place with kids until he had the cows in the barn because when they saw the kids, away they went.

Ferd was a good neighbour, always willing to help out. One time when Elsie Adams was in the hospital, Ferd went down to help Pete. Gail Rider knew Pete and Ferd liked pies and as she was baking some for home use, made an extra one. I told her to

put it on a cardboard plate and Pete wouldn't have to worry about returning the plate. When I took it down I set the pie in one of Elsie's pie plates, left a note to tell Pete it was their pie plate. Pete, at dinner time, cut himself a generous piece and was really chewing away on it, "Boy, Gail sure made a tough crust this time," he remarked to Ferd. "Well," said Ferd, "I don't think she meant you to eat plate and all!" Pete never did hear the end of that tale.

Ferd finally quit milking, sold his sheep but kept range cattle and also grew grain. In 1974 Ferd sold his place to LaRose Construction and moved to Bashaw.

Sharkey

Don, Irene and sons Garland and Daryl came from Camrose in the mid 1960's. They bought the farm, that Zimmers bought from Jake Camenish. Don also bought the Pellowe Fraction. Don and Irene put in a milking parlor and milked about twenty cows. They also built a big pig barn and raised a lot of pigs.

In 1974 they sold their land to Derek Lickert, from Calgary, and moved east of Camrose.

Sjolie, P.

Mr. and Mrs. Sjolie, with their two children, homesteaded N.W. 16-41-19-W4. Mr. Sjolie's father and brother lived in the Up to Date district. The Sjolies were also related to the Durands north west of Donalda. Most people pronounced their name "Shirley".

Tommy Chalmers remembers that his father and Mr. Sjolie helped each other with work.

The Sjolies left in 1916 or 1917 and went to Edmonton. Later some of the Sjolies lived in Camrose, but their whereabouts is now unknown.

Hans Solomonson

After Nighdis left the Skybo area, Hans came and he rented the same place Nighdis had. He stayed only a short while.

When Hans left the Zuehlke boys, Fred and Chap, rented it. They lived on it in the summer time, with Alice Zuehlke and Ev Thomas cooking for them. In 1936 Fred, Chap, Alice, Tom Thomas, Ev, Vern Askland and Aluf Sehlin went to Gouard country, so Jack and Percy Rider rented the land.

In 1937 Bill and Ella Andrews moved into the house. They had a daughter Beatrice, and shortly after moving there, their son Alfred was born. They had about eight milk cows and Bill also helped the neighbours. Their cows pastured on Boss Hill range,

which at that time was open land. Bill's were the last family to live on the Tom Rider homestead in the log house.

Several years later Percy bought his dad's homestead from Oscar Olsen and still owns it.

Charlie Sterns

Charlie Sterns, his wife Mamie and stepdaughter Mae Gardner came from the High Prairie area in 1939. They stayed a few weeks visiting the Jake Zuehlkes, as Charlie had grown up in the Donalda area.

In the fall of 1939 they rented the Johnnie Wickham place. As not too much land was broken on it Charlie, during the winter and next year or so, worked for his neighbours. About 1941 they moved to the Willow Park area as Charlie had been able to buy his dad's old place. They lived here until after the war when they retired to Donalda. Their home was just east of the creamery. In the mid 1960's they moved to the Bashaw Valley Lodge. When Mamie became ill and had to go to Ponoka Nursing Home where she died a few years later, Charlie stayed on at the Valley Lodge for awhile. He now lives in a senior citizens home in the Peace River country, near Mae and her family.

Tate

Percy Tate and his wife Bessie, came from Nottingham, England in 1909. At first they rented the old Bashaw place near the Narrows. About 1912 they moved to S.E. 18-41-19-W4, here a daughter Edna was born.

Mr. Tate found farming hard as he had never done any before. He was very good with sick animals and many a time saved an animal for his neighbors.

In the 1920's they moved to the Big Timber area and from there to Bashaw where Mrs. Tate died. Percy then went to stay with his daughter at Barrhead, and died about 1966.

Edna is married and lives at Campsie near Barrhead (Edna taught before marriage). They farm and have a government weather station. A few years ago they won the "Master Farm Family Award".

Trayers, Ben Sr.

Trayers came from the east in 1905 and homesteaded about a mile north of Dan Hines, in what later became Big Timber district. The nearest post office was Whitebrush and often when Elsie, their youngest daughter went for the mail, she would have a gunny sack full, as she also brought the neighbors' mail.

Their children were Ben J., Hattie, Lula and Elsie.



The Trayer family, Ben Trayer and wife sitting in middle on ground. Second row from the left Elsie (Trayer) Williams, Liela (Trayer) Holt, Hattie (Trayer) Dawson, Emma (Hearonemus) Trayer, Ben Trayer Jr. and Norman Holt far right. In back row far right Jack Trayer, rest in picture are grandchildren.

Ben Trayer Sr. was a Justice of the Peace and did much to help his neighbors with their disputes. It was at the Ben Trayer home that the first church services were held in this area.

When the Allan Pipes were here in 1954, he said it seemed funny not to see Ben coming out to have a visit with friends as they drove by.

Ben married Emma Hearonemus and they moved to Rockeling Bay area. They had one daughter Jenny.

Hattie was married to Bob Dawson Sr. when they came from Manitoba. They homesteaded in the Rockeling Bay area. Elsie, their oldest daughter, was the first white baby born on the north side of Buffalo Lake. She later married Pete Adams. Other children were Alice, Marjorie, Bob, Robert, Kathleen and Jack.

Lula married Norman Holt from Bashaw. Norman is dead but Lula is very active. Sons Ben, Norman and Ted are still in business in Bashaw area.

Jack married Edith Cook from Big Timber area and they bought the Borup place just north of Hines. Their children are Norman and Hugh. In 1957 they sold their place to Alf Rider and moved to Chilliwack, B.C. Jack is dead but Edith and boys still live out there.

Elsie married Laurie Williams, who had come from England. They bought the Buckmaster homestead three and one-half miles north of Skybo. Their history is under Buena Vista.

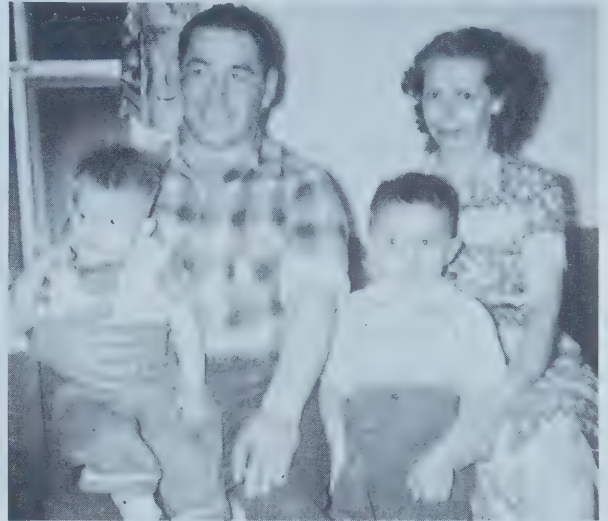
Ben Sr. died in the late 1930's and his wife in the 1940's.

Todd

Louie, Dan and Sam Todd came from Battle Lake area to homestead east of the present town of Bashaw in 1903. Dan's homestead is the present

Oscar Utas and Kendal Sutley farm. Louie and Sam homesteaded the south half of the section. Sam didn't stay long but went back to the Duhamel area.

In 1906 Louie and Dan came to Skybo area. Louie rented N.E. 8-41-19-W4, Hudson's Bay Land, which he later bought. Dan lived with him. Dan married a Miss Whitford and they moved to Rockeling Bay area. Their children were Velma, Irene, Johnnie, Harvey and Louie. Later they came



Sam, Margaret Todd, Donald and Lorne.

back to Skybo area. Velma married Allen Whitford and moved away. Irene married George Greenwood, brother of Louie Smith, and they also moved away. Johnnie and Harvey worked around the Skybo area. Johnnie married and for awhile he and his family worked for Ernie Steinhoff, then they went to the Vilna area. Harvey joined the services and now lives at Red Water. Louie was younger, shortly after finishing school, the second World War broke out and he joined the services. He lost a leg while overseas. After the war he came back to Skybo area, but later married, then he and Dorothy and two girls moved to Red Water.

Louie Todd married Helen Whitford, Don's youngest daughter. They had four sons Jim, Sam, Frank and Lloyd. In the 1920's they built a large-hip-roofed house, which still stands two miles east of the Skybo Community Centre.

Louie was very good with sick animals, especially horses, and many a neighbor was glad of his help. Helen was a wonderful seamstress, and even when the boys were grown she still made their suits. One of her other specialties was making beaded moccasins and gloves. She was a good cook and it was a pleasure to go to her place for a club meeting.



Todd Boys: Lloyd, Frank, Sam, Jim:



Louie Todd in middle.

The boys were a very musical group and played for many dances. Jim played banjo, Sam the drums, Frank the guitar and Lloyd the violin. Frank was also a good singer. Jim and his mother were both good step-dancers, and often danced to entertain people at the dances.

Jim married Mattie Lattery of Stettler and they had a son Timmy and a daughter Patsy. Jim is dead. Mattie and Patsy live in B.C., and Tim in Edmonton.

Sam married Margaret Dahl and they bought the west half of section 8. Their sons are Lorne and Donnie and also one who died while very young. Sam and Margaret are both dead. Lorne married Barbara Richards from Stettler and they have two sons Billy and Timmy. Lorne and Barbara live on his dad's place. Donnie helps farm and has worked for a number of years for Beaver Lumber. Lorne and Barbara curl, but the children are too small to join in sports.

Frank left and went to Peace River country, where he got married. He and his family now live at Kamloops.

Lloyd married Jean Lattery of Stettler and moved to Stettler. They had four children. Jean is dead and Lloyd lives in Stettler.

Valentine

The Valentines came from Ireland and bought N½ 19-41-19-W4. They built a nice three-roomed house where they lived for several years. Later they moved to the Big Timber area and when his wife died, Mr. Valentine left the area.

Waggaby

The Waggaby homestead was S.W. 30-41-19-W4. Not much is known about them, but two of their children started school at Skybo in 1908. Mrs. Waggaby was a woman who never went out much, but her husband loved to visit the neighbors. They left here before the first World War.

Ward, Jacob

Jacob Ward and his wife Helen were Indians. They lived just east of where Skybo school now stands, when the Hearonemuses came in 1901. Jacob was a brother to Louie and Dan Todd's mother.

Jacob's wife Helen was a fat jolly person. Jacob and Helen were well liked by everyone. They both did lovely bead work on jackets, moccasins, etc. and found a ready sale for all.

They had one son Jim.

In the 1920's Wards moved west of the narrows to the Rockeling Bay district. Helen died shortly after, and Jacob in the 1930's.

Jim is also dead.

Trut, Warren

by Astrid Rider

Trut and Lela moved to Donalda after their marriage in 1913. The first year they lived in the office of the first lumber yard. From there they moved to the Tebow place, where Les Damberger now lives, and a year later moved to the hard-pan northeast of Donalda. Later they moved to the Buena Vista area, across from the Hammarbergs.

Their family consists of Jim, Lawrence, Florence and Ruby, (known as "Pie", as that was the nickname given her by Florence). Jim's name is really Oliver, and Lawrence's nickname was "Tooter".

Lela was a wonderful cook and could make the simplest dish something special. Trut was one of the best horse-breakers around.

In 1931 the Warrens moved to the Alder Flats

area where they took homesteads. After the war Lela opened a boarding and rooming house in Alder Flats and ran this until she died suddenly in the 1960's. Jim and Florence both live at the Flats. Florence lives near Penhold and works in Red Deer Auxiliary Hospital. She is married and has one daughter. Ruby and her husband have four sons and a daughter and farmed east of Buck Lake, but Ruby and her husband are now retired and living in Wetaskiwin.

When we were visiting Trut Warren some years ago he told us of some of his adventures when he was young. About 1910 he was working at a lumber camp west of Prince George, British Columbia. At the end of February the camp closed because the snow was too deep. When he and two of his chums, who decided to live together, went to get their pay cheques they only got ten dollar between them. The boss said most of their wages went to pay for new overalls, boots, and jackets which the camp supplied. Not being able to do anything about it, they left with their winter wages.

They walked to the railway and hiked down it. Sometimes they'd sneak aboard a box car when a train stopped, but always made certain to get off quickly at the next stop, as the "Railroad Bulls" (Trut's expression) might catch them. After several days they arrived at a sawmill. They were very hungry. The boss gave them a meal and hired them for several days. One of the men decided to go to Jasper, but Trut and the other man wanted to go to Saskatchewan. They bought some food and headed out. At Jasper they bought tickets to Edmonton with the remaining money, and from there they headed east — hungry and broke. When they got to Vegreville they went to the livery barn. Here they saw several Ukrainian farmers who were eating "sow belly and black bread." These farmers had brought grain to the elevators. After eating they went to the elevators to get their cheques, leaving their remaining food in a box in the barn. Trut told his companion to take their suitcase (it held what few clothes the two had) and go down the track to where it curved out of sight, and wait, and he would get the grub. When the farmers were out of sight, Trut grabbed the meat and ran down the track to where his chum was. They walked to where they thought it was safe, then sat down to eat. "Did it ever taste good," Trut said, as they hadn't eaten for two days.

They finally arrived in Saskatchewan. Trut got to work on a horse ranch, where conditions were very good and stayed there for two years breaking horses, etc.

In 1913 Trut returned to Alberta, met Lela, and they were married.

Watland, Ole

Ole came to the Skybo district in 1922 and bought S.W. 19-41-19-W4. He had a small home built here. In 1929, Bessie Pool came from Edinburgh, Scotland to visit her sister Agnes Hearonemus. She stayed and married Ole in 1930. They bought S.E. 19-41-19-W4 and built their home there.



Ole and Bessie Watland.



Watland twins, Agnes and Wilma.

Children were Agnes and Wilma, twins born November 21, 1931 and son David born May, 1940. Agnes and Wilma went to Skybo school. In 1945 the family moved to Red Willow area and in 1948 moved to Stettler. Ole and Bessie are both dead.

Agnes married Albert Henke from Science Mound area and lives in Stettler. They had six children. Albert is dead. Agnes works at Heart Haven.

Whitford, Donald

Donald Whitford was a Scotsman. Donald was with the survey crew, who surveyed all through this area. For years he served as guide and interpreter for John and George McDougal, also assisting them in building the McDougal Church in Edmonton.

Before the railway came west from Winnipeg, Donald freighted furs from Edmonton to Winnipeg. He would start out by dog team, while snow was still on the ground and often finish up by oxcart. The trip took about two months.

In 1870 he married Peggy, who was a native Indian and they lived for awhile at Tail Creek.

About 1900 they settled in the Skybo area. Their home was a quarter of a mile north of the Skybo corners. This land was Harry Hearonemuses but the road curving to the west to get around the large slough, which started in that quarter and wound its way half across, what later became the Beugin homestead, cut off from the rest of the quarter, so



Peggy and Donald Whitford seated. Those in background unknown.

Harry never fenced it. The Whitfords lived there until Donald died in 1927, and Peggy a year or so later. Donald and Peggy celebrated their golden wedding while living there.

Their children were Sam, George, Flora, Margaret and Helen.

Sam married Esther Dykstra and lived on the east side of what is now called Tate Hill, on the south side of the road. Their children were Lena, Harvey, Ivan, Stanley, Adolph and ?.

Sam worked for the farmers around the district. When Lena was about twelve, they moved to Vilna, Alberta. Sam is dead as are Lena, Ivan and Stanley. Esther still lives at Vilna, as do the two boys.

George married and their children were Lawrence, Silas, Sachius and Laura. They also moved to the Vilna area.

Flora married Tom Chalmers and they lived around Donalds and Red Willow area for many years. Their history is under Chalmers.

Helen married Louie Todd and they lived in the Skybo area except for a few years in the Rockeling Bay district; until their deaths in 1959. Their story is under Todds.

Margaret married a McKorester and they moved to Edmonton.

Eddie Whitford, a grandson, lived with the Donald Whitfords.

Jane Whitford was a sister-in-law of Donald Whitford. They lived where Knockelbys now live.



Five Generations. Seated; Mrs. Flora Chalmers holding Don Valet, Mrs. Donald (Peggy) Whitford. Standing; Rosie Valet, Addie Hilker.

Jane was the mother of Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Dan Todd, Archie and Andrew.

Jane remembered well the Red River carts travelling from Winnipeg west.

Wickham, John

John Wickham bought the Jake McBride homestead S.W. 22-41-20-W4. He came in the 1920's. John was a bachelor, had some cattle and farmed a small acreage. John always put in a large patch of potatoes. When Percy and Alf Rider were boys they used to help him dig them. Mr. Wickham could bake lovely baking powder biscuits, so while he went in to prepare the meal, they sacked the potatoes. Their reward, a pan of good biscuits to eat.

Mr. Wickham said he didn't believe in wearing out his clothes washing them too often, so he'd wear a suit of underwear a week, then hang it up on the foot of his bed for a week, while he wore the other one. Guess at times he did have to wash clothes, because his clothes really weren't that dirty when one met him.

He moved to Bashaw in 1939, where he died in the 1940's.

Wilson, Andrew

Andrew Wilson came to the Skybo district in 1924 with his wife Edith, and son Donald, and daughter Rita. They took up residence on the Emdee place S.W. 12-41-20-W4, where their son Jack was born in 1925. A daughter Jean was born later in Calgary in 1927.

While on the Emdee place, they moved the house near the road and remodelled it. In 1936 the Wilsons moved back to Calgary.

In 1942 Don joined the army and went overseas.



Andy and Edith Wilson with grandson Andy.

In 1944 Jack joined up, also went overseas and was killed in action in April, 1945.

Don married while overseas and came back to live in Ontario for several years. They now live in Red Deer. They have seven daughters, who are married and live around Red Deer.

Rita married Lawrence Williams. When first married, they lived on the Trayer place. In 1957 Andy retired, he and Edith moved onto the Trayer place and Lawrence and Rita, with sons Andy and David moved onto his dad's place, as Fred and Pat had moved to Bashaw. Here, sons Steven and Robert were born.

Andy died in 1967 and Edith went to Calgary to live with her daughter Jean and family. Lawrence, Rita, and family moved back to the Trayer place.

Son Andy married Mary Duffy from Buck Lake. Andy works with Smith International and lives in Fort St. John with wife Mary, daughter Juanita and son Jamie.

David married a Calgary girl. He and Leslie have two daughters. They live in Calgary.

Steven is going to Red Deer College and Robert is taking his last year of high school in Bashaw.

All the children got their early schooling in Donalda.

Jean married George Prunkl from Calgary. They lived for several years in Calgary, but now live on the Walt Persinger place west of Donalda. George does barber work in Bashaw and Donalda. George and Jean have a lovely greenhouse and sell bedding plants.

George and Jean have four children. Karen is married and lives in Calgary; has a son and two daughters. Jackie is married; lives in Nova Scotia and they have a daughter. Bobby (son) works in Calgary. Nancy is at home and is taking her grade twelve in Stettler.

Zimmers, August

August and Laura Zimmer bought the Jake Camenish place when Jake and John moved to Bashaw. They had been living for several years a mile south of Donalda, on Mrs. Olsen's place. Children who were still going to school were Adeline, Ethel, Kenneth, Ernest and Ronnie. The six older children were away from home. The five children went by bus to Donalda school.

August Zimmers did quite a bit of carpenter work. In 1966 they sold their land to Don Sharkey because of August's poor health and moved to Bashaw.

The children are all married and living in different places.

There are several people of whom we have very little knowledge. Mr. and Mrs. Reno Shock lived for a short while about 1913 or 1914 on S.E. 12-41-20-w4, the present Gary Rider home, and they left because of Mr. Shock's poor health. Another was W. J. Mustard who lived for awhile on the Bruno place. Others who lived in this district and had their names on the assessment roll were; L. White, J. D. Baker, S. Barry and Fred Sadd. I may have missed other names, if so I'm sorry.

Taken from the old assessment ledger; School taxes in 1907 were \$5.00 a quarter. In 1924, 10 cords of cut wood delivered to the school for \$19.50.

I hope people who read "Donalda's Roots and Branches" will enjoy it as much as I have enjoyed delving into the past and writing of things I have learned about the wonderful people who made Donalda and districts such a wonderful place for us and those who come after us.

Astrid Rider.

Definition:

Come spring time have you ever seen the female of the species rushing around town with part of her hair in curlers; or one black shoe and one brown one or maybe forgot to change to clean slacks? Jeanne

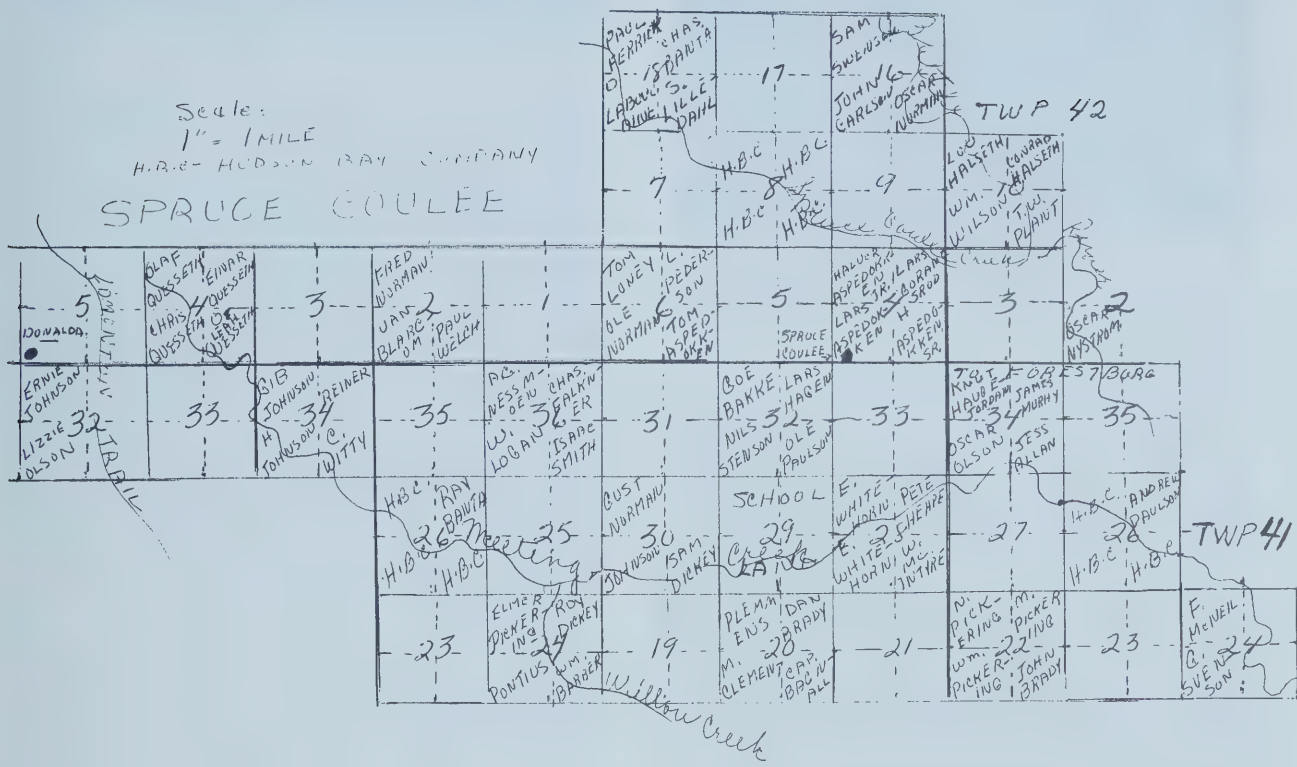
Lyster has coined a word for her; it is "Go-fer." In the spring a farmer will rush in, says to his wife, "Go-fer a quart of that special oil or go-fer a cultivator blade while I take off the broken one." And he wants it STAT!

So off goes the wife and when she gets to town the machine agent says, "What can I do for you?" She says, "Oh, I want a cultivator shovel so wide," holding out her hands. "For what make?" he asks. "I don't know, the machine is red and yellow, or maybe it's yellow with red." He hands out several, hoping one is the right one her husband needs and so it goes.

So all summer long the farmer's wife rushes around like her counterpart, the four-legged kind, who comes out in the spring and runs back and forth, in and out of their holes with cheeks full of food for winter storage and out again for more. In the fall they disappear to sleep snugly in their homes.

Come fall, the farmer's wife who has been told to go-fer a repair or parts all spring, summer and fall, can be seen when harvest is in, dressed up in a becoming suit, every hair in place and off to some entertainment or out to a gab-fest with friends, or to do some bowling or curling. So you can see; the title is really not out of place.

Spruce Coulee School District



Spruce Coulee School No. 1407

The first meeting of the resident ratepayers was held January 9th, 1905, for the purpose of organizing a school district. Lars E. Hagen was appointed chairman and J. W. Murphy, secretary. First trustees nominated were Lars Hagen, J. W. Murphy, and Lars Goransrud. Lars Halvorson (Aspedokken) offered 2 acres free of charge for a school site on Sec. 4-42-17, which was accepted. Here a school house 18' X 24' was built in 1906 by B. W. Averill, who tendered the lowest bid of \$500.00. The sum of \$700.00 was borrowed to cover the cost of building and furnishings at 8% over a period of ten years. In 1915 C. O. Jones built the barn and painted it, and the school for \$80.00.

In 1921, Thos Russell built the Spruce Coulee teacherage at a bid of \$69.00. Mrs. Hawthorne was the second teacher to reside in this residence and it became known as Hawthorne's house for many years. In 1922, Mr. Russell built an 8' addition to the school. In 1923 taxes were 10¢ an acre, then the school board received an ordinance regarding assessing land by valuation. Assessment was set at 8 mills on the dollar. There was a row of windows on the north, blackboards on the east and south. A furnace heater near the door, with stove pipe overhead the whole length of the school, which was the source of much aggravation for the teacher. This heating system ensured much heat in the cavernous ceiling area and cold feet for the occupants. This was changed in



Murphey homestead cabin still on the Hestness farm, where Spruce Coulee homesteaders organized their school 1905.



Spruce Coulee School — built in 1905.

1945 when a basement was built under the school with the furnace installed therein.

Many interesting tidbits in the recorded minutes — impossible to list them all. In one meeting, 1909—it is noted the secretary and treasurer each received \$20.00 and \$15.00, the chairman the amount of his taxes for attending meetings. Not bad. At the same meeting, it was moved to borrow \$60.00 to pay the teacher his full salary for that term, the chairman authorized to negotiate that loan.

In 1911, Ole Paulson replaced Hagen as chairman of the board, with Hagen taking over again. Knut Haugejorden assumed secretarial duties in 1917. Oscar Norman became secretary in 1922, with Nels Aspedokken new chairman shortly after. Other board members through the years: W. P. Robinson, Otto Paulson. It is noted in the meeting of December 22, 1924 that Annie Clifford (teacher) acted as chairman as Otto Paulson could not attend “on account of his father’s death”. R. R. Rasmussen was secretary in 1925, others were: F. Norman (chairman) 1926, Ray Banta replaced him in 1933. By 1930, salaries for trustees had reached \$45.00, but by 1935 had dropped back to \$25.00. That year Miles Dickey replaced Randolph Rasmussen briefly, for one year, with Gilbert Haugejorden taking over duties in 1936-1938. In 1938 Albert Norman replaced L. Goransrud, who moved into town. Otto Paulson became secretary with Ray Banta still chairman. Nels Goransrud replaced him in 1944 with R. Rasmussen

replacing Albert Norman in 1945. Alfred Hestness acted as secretary briefly in 1936.

In October 1938, a meeting was held at Cora Lynn (Red Willow). Our minutes do not say so, but this meeting was for the purpose of Spruce Coulee District No. 1407 being incorporated in Stettler School Division, with most of the authority being taken over by them. This is believed to have taken place in the spring of 1939. The local board carried on — (perhaps as an advisory committee?) and attended to repair needs, etc. The last recorded meeting of the local board was April 16, 1945.

The following is a list of teachers for the 50 years that the school was in operation. This has been compiled from memory and records, but is not guaranteed to be 100% correct! Miss Marr was the first teacher — for three months only, due to lack of funds, in 1906. A J. H. Newton, who was a minister, got a permit from the Department of Education to teach in Spruce Coulee for 4 months in 1907 at \$37.50 per month. Ernest “Dad” Winters taught for 6 months in 1908, for 8 months in 1909. He also taught in 1910 and 1911, and half of 1912. Miss McDonald was hired in August of 1912, and also taught in 1913. Alice Kahl taught in 1914 with Mel Cruikshank finishing the year. Mr. Egau in 1915, Martha Wilson in the spring of 1916, with Leslie Robbins finishing the year of 1916. It is not clear who taught in 1917 though a James “Jack” Jones from England taught around this time. The only reference to a teacher in 1917 is a “her”. T. W. Plant was hired in April, 1918 for the remainder of that year, with vacation “not longer than 4 weeks during the busiest of the harvest season.” He also taught in 1919 and 1920 with Leslie Robbins returning for the fall of 1920, also 1921 and 1922. Mrs. P. A. Hawthorne in 1923, Annie Clifford in 1924, Mildrid Rice followed her and Elva Clifford (Mrs. Lars Larson) taught next.

It is not clear when the hiring of teachers by the year (or month) was changed to the present “term” so it is difficult to say exactly which time of year certain teachers taught. Well, anyway, Myrtle Porter followed in 1927 but her contract was terminated as she held a certificate of teaching from Manitoba which did not qualify her to teach in Alberta. She was followed by a Miss W. Lowder in 1928, Mabel Lindberner in 1929, Minnie Stratton in 1930, Mary Robbins in 1931, Evelyn Erickson in 1932, Alice Haugejorden (Mrs. Ross McLellan) in 1933, Vera Sehlstrom (Mrs. Fred Winters) in 1934. Most of these teachers boarded at various homes, (Alice staying at home) since Mrs. Hawthorne used the teacherage. It is mentioned in the minutes whether this building could be sold. But Dorothy Solomonson used this residence — she taught in 1935, 1936, and 1937. Edwina Webb also resided there in the 1937-1938 term. Leonard Glover was hired in the fall of 1938 and boarded out. Vivian Clement taught in 1939, 1940, and 1941. The term of 1941-1942 saw two Glens — Glen Campbell and Glen Baugh, 1942 Andy McGladrie, Lila Fisher in 1943. Edith Adair taught for 3 years, residing in the teacherage from 1944-1947. Florence Pasula taught for 2 years — 1947-1949. Marion Beebe also taught for 2 years — 1949-1951. Edna Arkinstall taught for 3 years — 1951-1954. These 3 ladies with their children, also used the teacherage. Walter Pruden taught the next 2 years. He lived in the teacherage the first year but found it too lonely, so boarded in Donalda with Mike Vikses, and rode the high school bus to and from school with Ray Banta the last year. He was the last teacher 1955-1956, the school closing that year, the children then being bussed to Donalda.

There is mention several times in the minutes of obtaining title to the school site which was never done during the years that the school was in operation.



Spruce Coulee was used as a church for many years, this is a group after a Service there in — 1932, with Pastor John Rodvik and family, Friberg family, Randolph Rasmussen family, Gottfrid Norman family, Nels Larson family and others.

The Christmas Concert was the social event of the year. Practising for 2 months to please our parents, and visitors, who rewarded us with their appreciation. What excitement, when Santa Claus arrived midst jingling of sleigh bells. It was a joy almost too great to bear.

Some years the school entered the Stettler Music Festival. We always competed in the Track and Field Meet at Donalda—even winning the cup one year. Only once. We called it Field Day then. The year ended with a picnic which was a big treat in those days. That was when the teacher gave out the report cards.

In summarizing, many things come to mind. The school yard was bordered by chokecherry, saskatoon and poplar. The taste and smell of chokecherry time take me back to fall school opening. We hid in these bushes, playing Run Sheep Run. The boys built neat little shacks to pass the time. Many, many times we searched for the softball in these trees. I remember the hard fought ball games. Sides were chosen, and little ones had to be recruited to make 2 teams. Some being very proud; those less inclined, hating it; rather playing their own games. The cold winters were pretty rough, single paned windows on the north to let the cold wind in, but never any sun, long walks to school, riding only in the coldest weather, and occasionally on a rainy day.

The school was used for other purposes not just the 3 R's. In summer we trekked there for our annual parochial school, lasting two weeks. Church was held there for many years. There were meetings of Mutual Telephone, Rural Electrification, Co-op meetings, Farmers' Union and others.

Dances were held in the school. Desks had to be emptied, the contents carried to “Hawthornes' house” and laid in neat rows.

With the school closure, the community formed a club to purchase the school to be used as a community center.

Spruce Coulee Community Club

With the closing of the country schools, local residents were given the opportunity to purchase these for a nominal fee to keep them as a center for local activities. The residents of Spruce Coulee met and formed a club for this specific purpose.

The first requirement, of course, was to clear up the matter of the title. This land now belonged to Tom Aspedokken. It was agreed to exchange the barn for the site, as you see, he had paid taxes the whole time on this piece of land.

This center is a gathering place for folks of the community. Anniversary celebrations, showers, pic-



Spruce Coulee Community Center (from back).

pics, Christmas gatherings, and family reunions. Ball games in the summer, whist parties in the winter. Bingo games to raise money for upkeep. This is where the Ladies' Aid tie and stitch their quilts, a time of good fun and visiting.

This group has catered to auction sales and wedding receptions. Through combined efforts, we have made many improvements. A kitchen was built on. The interior of the main part has been wood panelled, the ceiling lowered. An oil furnace replaces the balky coal one we had before, new siding has been put on, a new back stop put up. The ditch has been levelled, improving access to the ground, and giving more parking space.

Everyone has their turn on executive positions, we are proud that our young folks join and gradually take over. It is a place where young children are welcome, no babysitters needed.

As the Farmer's Union is no longer active, the Community Club has taken over the annual Farmer's Picnic, this year, being our 34th. They were originally held on June 21st designated by the Provincial Government as official Farmer's Holiday. As this date conflicted with school exam time it was changed to the second Friday of June. We fought hard to keep it as a holiday, but it is no longer recognized by the Stettler Town and County Boards. We still hold our picnics, a tradition we are reluctant to give up.

Spruce Coulee Ladies Aid

The Ladies of this community met as early as 1905 "to make quilts to raise money for the religious school and home mission", which was the local Lutheran organization. At first it took in Lutherans from the "hard pan", through Spruce Coulee and to Willow Park.

Perhaps there were no official records, anyway none have turned up, but it is quite certain there was a group such as this for many years. However, in 1930 they reorganized and were known as "The Lutheran

Ladies of Spruce Coulee and Willow Park". It is not certain who all these ladies were, but most certainly these were some of them: Gudrun Rasmussen, Anna Larson, Selma Friberg, Mrs. Chris Halseth, and May Norman. Other early members either that year or the first year or two were Agnes Halseth, Minnie Queseth, and Jenny Skogstad. In 1933 new members were Marta Norman, Margaret Skogstad, Alma Norman, Susie Loberg, and Esther Bernard. Soon afterward and in succeeding years there were Mrs. E. Sitler, Lydia Friberg, Alpha Banta, Mabel Hestness, Edith Goransrud, Esther Price, Mrs. Gladys (Walter) Anderson, Edna Branes, Hilda Norman, Mabel Paulson, Dagny Norman, Geraldine Anderson, Rosa Stanvik, Estella Helfer, Esther Norman, Brita and Inga Aspedokken, Deannie Hillaby, Alice Norman,



Parochial School 1936. Back row: Fern B., Myrtle S., Viola B., Rosa S., "Toots" S., Palmer R. Middle row: Esther N., Emma S., Mildred A., Astrid N., Rita Mae and Elmer N., Verner N., Evert N. Front row: Loreen S., Lois J., Grant G., Luella N., Ruby R., Mabel R., Leo N., Marvin B., Arthur J.

Marion Stenson, Patricia Norman, Mrs. G. Whitehorn, daughters Jenny and Ruth, Mrs. J. Campbell, Lovern Dahl, Elizabeth Montgomery, Ruth McDonald, Delores Nelson, Mrs. Lindsay, Pearl Runge, Gerda Mueller, Elaine Helfer, Agnes Queseth, Eileen Iverson, Holly Komishke, Jean Venance, and Norma Norman. Our apologies to anyone missed.

In 1944 there were 24 members, which was surely the peak. Several ladies, though not official members, occasionally held meetings in their homes and contributed time and money, some very generously. To mention a few: Clara (Dave) Anderson, Maria Norman, Albertina Norman, Anna Haugejorden, and Iona Hillaby.

These ladies met every month in their homes. In later years, in alphabetical order. In early years this was a social event, at one time spending the whole day, with a bounteous meal at noon the highlight. They seemed to do much of their work at their

“Ladies Aids”, hence the whole day, I suppose. Quoting from a meeting of April 3, 1934, at the home of Mrs. Olaf Quesseth, “All members present. Some were embroidering, some crocheting, some cutting out aprons, some knitting, some winding yarn, and some talking, so all were busy.” May Norman was the secretary. Later, the afternoon meetings wound up with a huge lunch; featuring all the hostesses specialties; baking that must have taken a week to prepare. For many years now we have modified this. Farmer husbands are frequent visitors, and welcome.

Most of the business at early meetings concerned procuring teachers for parochial school. At first, two weeks in Willow Park and two in Spruce Coulee, later, just at Spruce Coulee. In 1933 the annual sale was at the home of Mrs. Hans Skogstad. Dinner and a ticket on the quilt for 25¢, or a ticket for 10¢. They made \$7.50 on their quilt raffle that year, and the sale brought \$35.45 for a total of \$42.95. Donations were made to Red Cross, cancer, and various other organizations at different times; paid the parochial teacher. The minister usually came and held devotion — he was often paid a small sum.

Recalling one annual sale at Hans Skogstad’s, Mike Dickey was the auctioneer. Evelyn Norman and Alleen Paulson were two little girls there — the little ones always drew the winning ticket. Evelyn drew ticket number 1, and Alleen was the holder of that lucky number.

We still make and raffle quilts, have our annual auction sale of sewing, fancy work, baking and produce, and some knitting (not as much as the pioneer ladies). We also have a fish pond for the kiddies. Nels Goransrud has been our capable and successful auctioneer since at least 1942 — that’s 37 years, Nels.



Spruce Coulee Ladies Aid, 1979.

We cater to and supply the cake for district anniversary celebrations; have catered to auction sales and to wedding receptions though the community club have now taken these over. I guess you could say we are now non denominational, as we have some United Church members, so donate to both churches in Donalds and also to Bethany Home for Children at Gwynne.

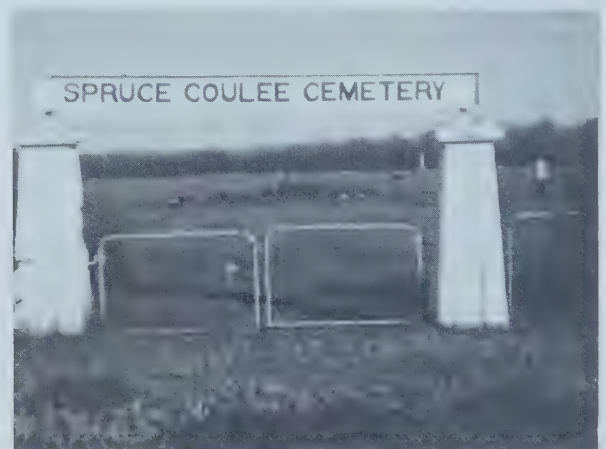
We send gifts to district people in hospital, cards to others, baby gifts, also a cup and saucer for district showers and contributions to our community center. Our members in this year, 1979, are: Esther Adair, Edith Goransrud, Elaine Helfer, Estella Helfer, Holly Komishke, Gerda Mueller, Alice Norman, Hilda Norman, Norma Norman, Patricia Norman, Mabel Paulson, Gudrun Rasmussen (charter member) and Jean Venance. Honorary members no longer active are Clara Anderson, Brita Aspedokken, and Agnes Halseth.

Spruce Coulee Cemetery

When the need arose for a burial plot, the N.W. corner of N.W. 32-41-17-W4 was donated by Goe Bakke, who homesteaded this quarter. Spruce Coulee Lutherans first sponsored this cemetery.

The first known burial was a Hagen baby in 1905, and another Hagen baby in 1906. Other early graves were a Haugejorden baby in 1907, Hammarberg twin girls; an Aspedokken youth in 1913, and Goe Bakke (owner of the land) in 1917, Ragnhild Paulson in 1918.

In 1910 Annalisa Friberg (Oscar’s grandmother) passed away and was buried there. Her husband had been buried on their farm in 1898, prior to their move here. In 1914, sons Martin and Gustav transferred their father’s body from Edberg to Spruce Coulee Cemetery.



Spruce Coulee Cemetery

Oscar Norman later owned this quarter, and when he sold it to Chester Banta, it was discovered that this parcel of land had never been taken off the title. So Oscar had this done during this transfer, so I guess you could say it was donated twice.

This quarter now belongs to Lloyd Paulson, and this spring a row of spruce and poplar was planted outside the cemetery boundary; on the east and south, on Lloyd's land by his kind permission.

The present Ladies Aid takes an active interest in the upkeep; helping to organize work bees throughout the summer; mowing, trimming hedge, and planting and caring for the flowers. All work done has been community projects; with the help of interested persons from other districts.

Some board members through the years have been Oscar Norman, Gust Friberg, Conrad Halseth, Gilbert Haugejorden, Otto Paulson and Nels Goransrud.

Present board members are Verner Norman, Leo Norman and Richard Larson.

Spruce Coulee Cemetery

Baby Jones
Baby Wilkinson
Jesse Allan
Jesse Lillidahl
Mrs. Aase Hagen
Mrs. Margaret Larson
Mrs. Conrad Hagen
Arne Hagen
Baby Hagen
Baby Hagen
Ellen Hammarberg
Ellvera Hammarberg
Hans Haugejorden
Mrs. S. J. Calvin
Ardis VanBlarcom
Ludwig Loney
Chester Banta
Robert Lee Dickey
Samuel Dickey
Noble Barber
Luther Larson
Mrs. Sara Rafuse
Peter Rafuse
Florence Robbins
Julia Stratton
Rosie Paulson
Ole Paulson
Mrs. Rosie Paulson
Hazel Elenor Paulson
Gary Eugene Swan
Christian Larson
Halseth
Kate Hellen Larson
Swan
Gunhild Goransrud
Minnie Stratton
Halvor Aspedokken
Lars Larson Goransrud
Mrs. Maren Loney

Mrs. Annalisa Friberg
Lars Friberg
Halver Aspedokken
Baby Haglund
Eric Norman
Hugo Norman
Edla Norma
Mrs. Anna Lingren
Edith Norman
Mary Norman
Bertha Norman
Ture Norman
Grace Pederson
Tolleff Goransrud
Mrs. Gunhild Nilsson
Bernt Hestness
Dickey Paulson
Walter Nelson
Anna Linnea
Aspedokken
Mrs. Katie Logan
Charles Stratton
Lawrence Rasmussen
Mrs. Ingeborg
Aspedokken
Mrs. Margaret Skogstad
Ole Norman
Mrs. Anna Hestness
Mrs. Anna Halseth
Edna Grace Rasmussen
Gustav Friberg
Winfield Logan
Andrew Paulson
Alfred Hestness
Emily Lindsay
Toillef Aspedokken
Lennart Friberg
Gladys Paulson
Gustav Norman

Irma Amelia Stratton
Knut Nelson
Haugejorden
Alice Elizabeth Banta
Maria Norman
Selma Friberg
Nels Swan
Albertina Norman
Mabel Hestness
Erwin Friberg
James Lee
Gilbert Haugejorden

Gilbert Stratton
Delmer Norman
Fred Norman
Martha Norman
Nickalas Swan
Lars Larson
Neil Norman
Henry Paulson
Bertha Swan
Lydia Friberg
John Swan
Anne Haugejorden

Mining Along the Meeting Creek and Battle River

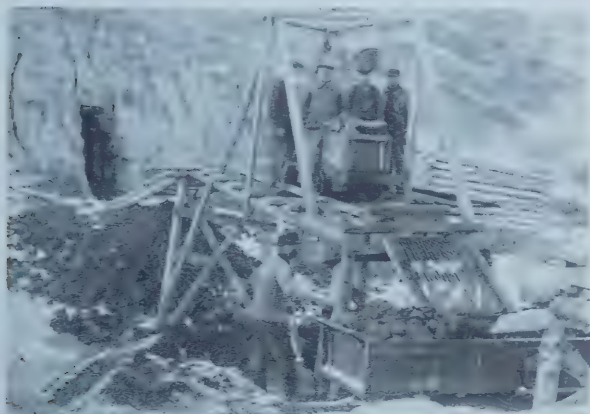
Mining in the Donalda east area began about 1905 when Pete Heape homesteaded on N.E. 28-41-17-W4. Prior to his arrival the homesteaders used only wood to heat their homes. With his previous knowledge of coal, Pete Heape started digging coal in the banks of his farm and neighbors were able to get some from him to bank their stoves at night, introducing them to its use. After this, mines were opened up in the Meeting Creek Valley.



Jude Wilkinson (note carbide lamp) at Calvin mine.

To mention some of the earliest: there were the Six Brothers (was their name Six or were their six brothers, no one seems to know), on the Ells Whitehorn homestead, the Pickering mine and Norman Bros. mine on Sam Dickey's homestead. The Lindquist mine was also started on Sam Dickeys, and their operations were moved further west to the banks of the present Herb Mueller farm. Another homesteader — Mr. Plemming, had a mine on his homestead and he dug coal for sale for several years.

There were several other small mines — to mention some — the Wallace Mine, Sam Eastwoods, Harold Baristow and Pickerings.



Norman Brothers mine — Fred, Ole, Oscar, and Gust Win Logan getting coal.

Louis Hughes opened a mine on S.E. 29-41-17-W4 in 1919. This was later taken over by Jim Calvin. Mrs. Calvin was buried in Spruce Coulee Cemetery in 1925. Jude Wilkinson was the next owner. He lost his eyesight when hit in the eyes with coal. Otto Paulson, who mined with all these operators, took over as 'overman' during Jude Wilkinson's hospitalization.

Jude's son Frank took over in 1936 and operated until 1946. During this time he moved the mine location further along the creek, on this side — via foot bridge — from a farm operated at that time by Earl Rhinehart.

Frank sold the mine to Anonsons and bought a farm east of Meeting Creek. Frank is retired and now lives in Camrose. The Anonsons later sold to Willie Jones. They were the last operators in this location, moving their operation to the Hillaby section south of Spruce Coulee.

John Graf and Nick Fry opened a mine on Otto Paulson's farm. Nick later moved operations west, just north of the bridge on the road going to Herb Mueller's farm. He built a nice house there as opposed to the usual hastily built 'mine shack'.

Tommy Mitchinson took this mine over, later moving east on the school section and opened up a mine in the hill there. Gerla and Runge bought Tommy out and operated for several years until this mine also closed. Buckle Bros. from Rosalind opened a



George Skogstad and Eddie Hestness at abandoned Pete Heape mine.

mine further east on the present Helfer land (Pete Heapes). Tommy later operated this mine also, before it was closed for good.

Roy Heisz and Jack Orde opened a mine in the Donalds Coulee, later Roy Heisz with the help of Jack Orde and Jack Scott opened a mine near Battle River on land now owned by Melvin Anderson. It was called Northern Lights Coal Mine. Jack Marshall and Albert Miner were later owners. The Buckles were the last to operate this mine, before relocating near the Meeting Creek as mentioned before. There may have been more but it is impossible to remember them all.

The stories that could be told! Here is one typical incident. In about 1922, Mr. Fanning was approached by Huston and Hill to finish the season at a mine north on the Battle River, and south of Rosalind. He asked Otto Paulson to go with him as a partner. They sold some coal, but getting payment wasn't easy. They were out of groceries, no cash to purchase supplies. But one day they did get a cash customer — \$1.50 for a ton of coal. So Fanning took off for Rosalind to get some supplies. Imagine Otto's disappointment when Fanning came back; he spent ninety cents for tobacco and bought groceries with the rest.

Since coal was the main source of heat for many years, and was used to fire the steam engines, mining grew into a fair sized industry and continued for approximately forty years. Many people earned their living through it. Farmers earned some extra winter income, hauling to town with team and sleigh.



William and Pearl Runge. Long time residents of Donalda district and Donalda east (coal mine) district.

The miners mined with picks and shovels through tunnels which penetrated the hill sides. Cars pushed by hand on tracks carried the coal to the entrance where it was dumped from the top of the tippie to the waiting sleighs or wagons below.

Cave-ins were responsible for many broken limbs and two lives were lost, Lee Dickey and Ernie Johnson in two separate incidents.

Then a cheaper method, strip mining, was started further east near Forestburg. Stoker furnaces came into use, and propane was also gaining in popularity.

All this spelled the end of the "gopher hole" mines.

Trueman and Amanda Allen

by Dot Johnson

Trueman Allen and Amanda Madison were married in the state of Vermont, U.S.A. They moved to Wenatchee, Washington and here their family of four sons and two daughters were born.



Ready for a hunting trip. Left to right, Lars Larson, Alex and Howard Allen, Lars Lein, and Randolph Rasmussen.

They came to Alberta in 1909, settling about four miles east of Donalda where they made their home until the early twenties.

Their son Wilton Homer Allen married Beatrice Annetta Green and Howard Miles Allen married Uma LeTezzia Green, daughters of Captain Leander and wife Emma L. Green of the Liberal District in the year 1914. Their weddings took place in the Red Willow Presbyterian Church with Rev. Jack Goddard as officiating minister. All were dressed in cowboy clothes. Rev. Jack often remarked over the years of this unique wedding as he stood in the early morning watching the happy couples riding into the sunrise. Many times he has remarked "They rode into the sunrise, but God would guide them into the sunset of life." The bridesmaid was Ida Allen and groomsman was Bob Green.

Howard and Uma Allen are presently living in Peace River Town, and at eighty-six and eighty-five years of age enjoy good health. They have eight sons, forty-two grandchildren and thirty-one great-grandchildren.

Frank and Milton died many years ago.

Beatrice and Wilton Allen raised five girls and one son. They homesteaded in Tangleflags, Saskatchewan in 1915. Before their deaths they received much pleasure from the company of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Beatrice Green Allen was a member of Victoria Daylight Rebecca Lodge and an avid worker amongst the CNIB, being a volunteer.

Amanda Madison was a niece of James Madison, fourth President of the United States. She was a quiet gentle lady — who will be remembered by the early church groups of Donalda.

Trueman Allen was a mechanic and helped with farm machines of an earlier era. Many times the writer of this article rode horseback through the coulees to spend happy hours with this hospitable couple.

Bertha Allen married Harry Jacobs of the Vimy Ridge district. Harry's family came from Garry, Indiana settling in the Bar Harbour district. Their four sons and one daughter live in Alberta. Harry and Bertha Jacobs are buried in Lake View Cemetery in Stettler.

The Halvor and Ingaborg Aspedokken Family Story

As told by Nels Aspedokken with additional information given by Inga (Aspedokken) Jones

A feeling of restlessness had overtaken the Aspedokken family at Tunhovd, Norway. The second

oldest son, Lars, had emigrated to South Dakota in 1899 to the home of an uncle. The parents, Ingaborg and Halver Aspedokken, did not wish their family separated by such vast distances, so they decided to leave Norway in the year 1900 accompanied by their remaining sons: Halver, Nels, and Tellef (Tommy). On the last high hill overlooking their home at Tunhovd, Halver Sr., took out his violin and played a tune — knowing he would never see that valley again.

They were two weeks making the trip to Minot, North Dakota, to Ingaberg's family. Halver Sr., did not like the bald prairie. He said, "It must be better at Pollock", where they were going. They arrived at night to a sod building, and conditions were no better. In the morning they went to visit their uncle, Lars Goransrud who had a store — also a sod building.

They visited the Paulson family and others they knew, and were left with a feeling of great disappointment. Halvor Sr., bought a farm, a quarter section with a lumber house and sod stable, and Halvor Jr., also bought a quarter section. They planted corn, with poor return, the summer was very dry. One evening some dark clouds came up and the family went into their storm cellar. It turned out to be a heavy hailstorm, windows were broken, the corn

all gone, a sorry sight. They had to buy feed for the cattle that winter. In March they had a three day blizzard which was so severe they used the hay rack between the house and the stable to guide them to feed the cattle. The stable was covered with snow and they had to dig their way in. All the range cattle froze to death. Wandering with the storm, they couldn't face the wind. It was the last straw in a disappointing venture.

About this time they heard about free land in Alberta and the whole family felt they should leave. In the early spring of 1903, Halvor Sr., and Lars left for Alberta and located land, three homesteads, for which they paid ten dollars each. They felt the potential was good with ample bush, grass and rain.

The farm at Pollock was sold for \$800.00 (he wanted \$1000.00) and Halvor Jr., sold his quarter for \$200.00.

That summer of 1903, the Aspedokken family left along with the Lars Goransrud, Lars Hagen, Ole Paulsen families and many others, they had their own train from Pollock to Wetaskiwin. They were met by Lars who had remained in Alberta.

They spent the night in the hotel at Wetaskiwin with the exception of Halvor Sr., who spent the night in the box car with the cattle. The next day the cattle and machinery were unloaded and they began the eighty mile trek to their homesteads. They spent the next night in a homesteader's granary, except Ingaborg, the mother, who slept in the house because of her age.

Lars Hagen had gone on ahead and was stuck in a wet area. When they arrived he was carrying his wife and children to dry ground. The men waded in the water to pull the load out.

The Aspedokkens stayed with the Stuve family for a week and other friends stayed different places. Halvor and his sons went back to Wetaskiwin to haul out some of their goods, then they left for Spruce Coulee.

It was dinner time when they arrived at Brynhjolf Stolees where they cooked their first coffee, the sons went out to shoot ducks and they had milk from the cow. The first night was spent there.

The next morning they went to their homestead, it was now June. Halvor Sr., pointed to a spot by a big bush and said, "There's where our home will be." They hobbled the horses to fend for themselves, and built a corral for the cattle. The mosquitoes were so thick they had to build a smudge. A leaky old tent was put up for the shelter with a stove outside. The first night it rained and thundered, the tent leaked like a sieve. Ingaborg had to dip water out of the stove to make breakfast. All the family were very happy



Halvor Aspedokken family, 1917. Tommy, Lars, Nels Ingaborg and Halvor.

looking over their new property, realizing its potential. They walked one and a half miles to get water for coffee, but soon they dug a well by a slough for drinking and cooking. Halvor and his sons built a log house and went back to Wetaskiwin for lumber. The house was finished the latter part of the summer.

Samuel Dickey had broken up some land and he said people could plant potatoes there. Meanwhile Halvor broke some land south of the house and sowed it into oats — a monstrous crop resulted — his first experience farming in Alberta.

Everyone worked hard all week and hunted for their food supply on Sundays. Ducks and prairie chickens were very plentiful, and the Battle River was full of fish. They would get only their nets halfway out when the fish would start to come on, and soon they would have more than they could carry.

During the first snowfall, Halvor Jr., saw tracks in the coulee and followed them, to shoot a big buck deer. Everyone came to see the animal and taste how good the meat was.

That winter they obtained a permit for a thousand feet of lumber which was sawed by Haukadahl and Anderson from Edberg, who had a small sawmill. Now they had lumber for buildings, by this time they had built a log stable for the cattle. The family had the job of chinking the house (built earlier) using sand and lime. The source of their lime was a pit dug and burned by a Mr. McNeil along the Meeting Creek, near Battle River.

There was no threshing outfit so Lars Hagen bought a small threshing separator and for power they used eight teams, with men standing inside the circle to keep the horses moving. A very exhausting job, that went on from early morning until late at night, but with the satisfaction of the first grain threshed in that area of Alberta.

Lars Goransrud and Halvor Sr., decided to buy a small hand powered grain grinder in which wheat was ground into flour for baking and other purposes.

There were many hazards those early days. The closest store was Ellefsons, twenty miles away, near Meeting Creek. Halvor Jr., went to Meeting Creek to buy groceries in the winter when a terrible storm came up. It grew dark and he didn't know where he was going. Finally, he saw a light and headed for it. He was met at the door by Hans Solomonson, who put his horses in the stable and gave him a good meal and a night's lodging. The next morning was clear, but he had to drive eight miles over some huge drifts to get home.

Henry Paulson was riding to get some groceries, and when he came to the hard pan, half way to Ellefson's Store, he noticed a great smoke rolling up

in the west. With a high wind the fire was travelling fast. By nightfall it was only six miles from their home. Halvor and his sons and neighbors plowed a fire guard from Spruce Coulee to a big slough. Next morning a wind came up and the fire was coming fast. People from across the river waded in water up to their waists to help stop the fire before it jumped the river to their homes. A back fire was started and stopped it from going further east. Prairie fires were common and a great worry.

Life was not all work. The Indians from Duhamel came down to visit. LaBoucaine and Halvor Jr., and Lars were invited to a dance. Lars was quite a step dancer, and both had a great time dancing with the Indian ladies. Pee-wey (an Indian) was a very good fiddler and his brother played the guitar.

The river was a great source of enjoyment. There were no swimming lessons in those days. You just jumped in, and if you couldn't make it, someone pulled you out. Whirlpools were a great challenge. Tommy was a good swimmer, also Randolph Rasmussen.



Grampa Aspedokken with grandchildren, L-R — Helen, Grampa, Mildred, Inga, Henry and Irene in Front.

In three or four years all homestead land was taken up and many faced the winter in a granary with a single wall. Stoves burned almost red hot to keep the flimsy homes warm.

Some people had horses, others used oxen, and some even used cows to break up the land. It was amazing what they could do with the simple equipment they had. Surprisingly everyone was happy working from morning until night developing this new land.

As early as 1904-05 the ladies began their Ladies' Aid; sewing quilts, putting up good food and coffee. This was the beginning of a two week religious summer school they financed by sales of their handicrafts.

The Lutheran Minister, Pastor J. A. Stavney lived twenty to twenty-five miles away, east of the Meeting Creek store. He came once a month to hold services in farm homes, about the year 1904. He made this long trek in the winter months as well. He formed a group of young girls and boys to read for him after church — his first confirmation class. It took four years for this first class.

Nels was trapping in 1904 and heard a strange human-like cry from his traps a mile away. It turned out to be the first lynx ever caught in this area, and neighbors came to see this strange new animal.

The first school at Spruce Coulee began 1905-1906. The first term was three months. At that time they could not get a teacher so Newton, a homesteader who had been a minister, taught. Gradually the school year lengthened.

Road building started in 1906-07, and they put corduroy in the Hagen's swamp, using wheelbarrows to haul the dirt. Later they used small scrapers and later larger scrapers using four horses. Many roads were built using this simple equipment.

The year 1906-07 was a severe winter with snow up to five and six feet deep, and a lot of drifting. Cattlemen who had hay some distances away were unable to get it, and hundreds of cattle died of starvation.

Halvor Jr. died of asthma in 1913. Nels took over his farm at that time. Ingaborg (mother) passed away January 1936 at 78 years of age. Halvor Sr., (father) lived 99 years and nine months and passed away in May, 1947.

The Aspedokken Brothers:

Halvor Jr., born — March 27, 1880, died — 1913.

Lars, born — October 19, 1884, died — March 1971.

Tommy, born — August 2, 1890, died — October 6, 1970.

Nels, born — December 17, 1894, presently resides at Leduc, Alberta.

Lars went to Norway on November 20, 1911 and married Gunhild Brevik. He stayed in Norway for six months and they came back to Spruce Coulee where he built their home and where their three children were born. On April 30, 1923 he took his wife and family and returned to Norway. He bought a farm Vedhus in 1924 where another son Karl was born. Halvor, the first son, still resides on this farm. His two daughters are Ingaborg and Margit. These children are all married with children and grandchildren. Ingaborg (Mrs. Erland Haugen) has four children, two sons, Asbjorn and Lars; twin daughters Erna and Inger, with three grandchildren. Halvor and his wife



Tommy and Brita Aspedokken Wedding — 1928.

Kari have four children, Gunvar, Lars, Ole, and Kjell with three grandchildren. Margit (Mrs. Eric Odden) has three children, Gretha, Leif and Margit, and three grandchildren.

Ingaborg Haugen came back to visit the homestead home east of Donalds in July, 1976. She was accompanied by two of her children and a friend. They delighted in getting reacquainted with family and old time friends at the Larson reunion held at the Spruce Coulee Community Center.

Then in the summer of 1979, Margit Odden, her brother Karl and his wife, Tagnhild with a neighbor of theirs came to visit the homestead home (still standing) and attended a family supper given in honor of her sixty-second birthday. She had her picture taken beside a lilac bush that her mother had planted, there is also rhubarb still growing.

Tom Aspedokken was born on August 2, while his mother was on the 'Saeter' summer pasture attending the milk cows, goats and sheep at Tunhovd in Norway. His father was a blacksmith and the name of their farm was and still is Aspedokken.

Aspedokken is preserved much the same as it was in 1901 when they left. There has been cold running water and an electric stove installed in the old house.

There are two houses on the farm, the old house was built in the 1700's, the new home was just completed in 1901 before they left but had never been lived in.

Tom immigrated to South Dakota with his mother and father (the Halvor Aspedokkens) and his brothers, where they settled on a farm at Pollock, near the Missouri River.

There was an Indian reserve across the river. Tom recalled how the squaws would go into the store owned by Lars (Larson) Goransrud and sample the candies and other groceries, while the bucks waited outside. He also told of the rattlesnakes in piles and of how the soldiers came in and killed them, and of how his mother went to the chicken house to gather the eggs and found a bull snake curled around the door. She went back to get someone to come and kill it, as it was after the eggs too. Another experience his brother Lars had was with a blue snake while raking hay. They would bite hold of their tails with their teeth and roll like hoop, and it got into the rake wheel. Lars whipped up the horses and killed it.

In July of 1903 they left South Dakota and came by a chartered train to Wetaskiwin, the end of the rail and from there they travelled by horsepower to their homestead in Spruce Coulee.

Tom went to school at Edberg for a time, staying with the Tom Halvorsons. He was confirmed in the Ferry Point Church by Pastor Stavne.

He owned the first car in the Spruce Coulee district which was a 1916 model "T" Ford. During the flu epidemic of 1918, he took Dr. Creighton out and around Forestburg area in his car. On October 15, 1928, he married Brita Jonson. To this union four children were born, the third child died in infancy.

Inga (Mrs. Roger Jones) is the eldest daughter, they live in the Forestburg area where they do mixed farming. They have four children all at home, Myron, Lynn, Timmy, and Lois.

Helen Darnell of Heisler, also on a farm, has four children. Two girls, Linda and Coleen in Calgary, and two boys, Michael and Ivan, at home.

Henry lives on his grandfather's homestead with his mother, Brita, and is still engaged in mixed farming. Tom and Brita cared for Halvor Aspedokken after Tom's mother, Ingaborg passed away. Tom and Brita continued to farm until Tom's passing in October of 1970. He was buried in Spruce Coulee Cemetery, as were his mother, father, and infant daughter before him.

Nels married Helga Hestness (a Spruce Coulee girl) in 1919. Helga and Nels lived at Donalda until 1937, when they sold everything but the farm, which was rented out, and went to British Columbia, for the winter. Upon returning in the spring, they bought a half section of land with a large modern home at

Bawlf. Seven years later Nels had to sell this farm because of failing health and moved to Camrose where he worked for a machinery dealer. However, after two years Helga and Nels decided to move to Bristish Columbia and bought a ten acre chicken farm. This way of life wasn't to their liking and so within a few months they were once again on the move, this time to a farm east of Camrose. A couple of years later, this farm was sold and replaced with a quarter section land near Bentley. Helga and Nels lived there from 1951 to 1957 when they moved to Lacombe where they remained until Nels retired at the age of seventy-four. They decided to escape the cold winters by moving to Rutland, British Columbia, but found disadvantages there as well. They returned to Alberta after two years and bought a home in Leduc where they are presently living. Helga and Nels celebrated their sixtieth anniversary on November 25, 1979. They are now retired in Leduc. They have two daughters, Mildred (Mrs. Norman MacCrimmon) of Calgary, and Irene (Mrs. Ed Darvill) of St. Albert.

Nels recalls, when Gust and Fred Norman were caught in a blizzard they couldn't see where they were going or find any farm houses to take shelter in, when they came upon a hay stack. They dug themselves in and their horses stayed close by. This train of thought saved their lives.

When the pioneers first came to Wetaskiwin, Lars Goransrud wasn't quite ready to leave when the other fellows were, so they started without him. On looking back they saw a cloud of dust approaching with great speed. It was Lars, hotly pursued by a group of Indians who thought he had liquor. The worst thing that happened was that he lost his hat. Lars said, "No way were any Indians going to catch me."

Since there was no doctor in the immediate area, his mother, Ingaborg Aspedokken acted as a midwife for the first few years assisting the Pederson, Paulson, and Goransrud families. Only once did she find it necessary to call a doctor.

Mildred Aspedokken MacCrimmon

I left Spruce Coulee at the age of thirteen, when my parents went to British Columbia for the winter. The following spring they bought a farm at Bawlf. I attended a country school called Acme until grade ten, then completed my high school in Bawlf.

I had chosen nursing as a profession, and took my training at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton, graduating in 1947. For two years I remained on staff until my marriage in 1949 to Norman MacCrimmon, originally from Vankleek Hill, Ontario.

Norman was in the R.C.A.F., and we spent our

first two years in Ft. Nelson, British Columbia. Since married quarters were scarce, we could tell some pioneer stories about living accommodation:

Our next home for four years was Barrie, Ontario, where Norman was an instructor. I worked in a Nursing Home and Special Nursing until 1954 when our daughter Drinda was born.

The following nine years we were Maritimers, living in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia where Norman did liaison work with an aircraft company. The Maritimers were marvellous people, and we enjoyed a very unmilitary type life working in Lodge, Church, and St. Johns Ambulance. In 1958 our second daughter, Gail arrived.

1964 brought exciting news we had long waited for, a transfer overseas to Ewing at Zweibrücken, Germany. It was a wonderful four years where we had the best of both worlds and travelled to England, Scotland, Spain, France, Italy, Austria, Holland, Belgium, Luxemburg, and of course all over Germany.

The highlight was a visit to Norway to see Uncle Lars and family. The timing was good as Aunt Gunhild passed away soon after our visit. We went to Tunhevd to see my grandparents' home (two houses) and we wondered how they could leave such a beautiful spot. The houses are owned by the Lund family in Oslo. The main house is like a museum, and there is a plaque commemorating my grandparents' wedding day.

On returning to Canada we spent the last three remaining years of Norman's service at Trenton, Ontario, living in a hundred year old home in Frankford, on the Trent canal system.

We have become Westerners again, Norman works for Alaska Gas Trunk Lines; and I work in the Medical Records Department at Foothills Hospital in Calgary.

Our daughter Drinda is a teacher, and met her husband Keith Wilson at University while he was getting a degree in humanities. He now prefers the Oil Industry, and they are at Fox Creek. Gail, our youngest daughter, is in fourth year Environmental Biology at University of Calgary.

Irene Aspedokken — youngest of their two daughters

Irene Aspedokken was born on February 23, 1937. After completing high school at Bentley, she went to work for an optical firm. Irene and Ed Darvill were married on July 5, 1956 and spent the next five years at Red Deer. Two of their three children were born there, Laurie in 1959, and Kevin in 1960. They moved from Red Deer to McLennan and here their second son, Gary was born in 1965. In 1966 the

Darvills left for Edmonton where they lived for seven years. The next move was to St. Albert, their home for the last six years. During the past twenty-two years, Ed has been self employed in various aspects of the oilfield industry — first trucking, then construction and presently helicopters. Laurie is in the third year of a Physical Education program at the University of Alberta and Kevin is employed in oilfield construction with plans to attend N.A.I.T. in the fall.

The Goransrud Family

Lars and Gunild Larson (Goransrud) emigrated to Alberta with their five children in 1903, their children ranging in age from twelve years to eleven months. As a group of families from Pollock, South Dakota, emigrated at the same time, they chartered a train to transport their belongings and themselves. The families rode in a pullman car which had wooden slatted seats that converted into beds at night.

They arrived in Wetaskiwin in July, 1903. Their machinery was stored on open lots. The cattle were driven and their belongings were hauled in wagons over open country, stopping at various country points on the way and finally arriving at their homesteads — their final destination.

The homesteads had been filed on previous to their arrival. Lars Larson Goransrud and a number of others had made the trip up here and chosen their homesteads.

Lars Larson Goransrud's homestead was 9 miles east of Donalda. His two brothers-in-law, Ole Paulson and Halvor Aspedokken, and an old neighbor, Lars Hagen, all took homesteads close by, forming a small settlement.



Mr. and Mrs. Lars L. Goransrud Golden Wedding Anniversary 1936.

A small shanty was put up first, and then with the help of a hired man, enough straight spruce logs were cut from his own property to build a house 16 x 24 by 12 feet high. This was ready to move into December 1, 1903. The family consisted of Ragnild, later called Rosie. Anna, Lars, Tollef and Mary. Three years later a new son was born, Nels, and a couple of years later a daughter, Gunil. Tollef passed away in his youth and is buried in Spruce Coulee Cemetery.

On arriving in Alberta, Lars Goransrud was known as Lars Larson. There were so many by the same name coming into the country that there was confusion with the mail, so he adopted the custom of his native Norway and used the name of his old home, Goransrud, as his surname.

A school district was organized in 1905 and a school built in 1906. Goransrud, being very civic minded, became one of the first trustees of the school and held this job for all the years he resided in the district. The name Spruce Coulee was chosen for the school because just a mile north was a coulee full of spruce.

Miss Marr was the first teacher in 1906. Records show a Mr. J. H. Newton was hired as teacher for four months, from July, 1907. Then a Mr. Winters taught in 1908 for six months. Some of his descendants are still residents of the Stettler and Botha area. He received \$600.00 per term for his teaching.

Records show Rosie Goransrud was lowest bidder in 1909 and was awarded the job of scrubbing the school and cleaning the windows. She received fifty cents per month for February, March and April, and \$1.00 per month for the next five months. Otto Paulson was paid fifteen cents per day to start the fires.

The pioneer days for Lars and Gunild were busy ones, feeding and clothing their family. Their clothes were all hand crafted. The sheep were sheared, the wool prepared for carding and spinning, and then knitted or crocheted into articles of clothing; stockings, mitts, undershirts, underskirts, sweaters, and caps. Some of the girls said they never had a bought coat until they went to work. One of their ways of getting to school in winter was on a pair of skis, made by their father.

One of the community gatherings was the Ladies' Aid Auction, when hand-made articles were auctioned off and the money was used for community or church needs. These auctions were held in the homes, and a social evening followed, with lots of coffee and lunch.

Gunild was very popular with her family, and later, her grandchildren, for the paper thin and delicious lefse. Being a Scandinavian neighborhood, this, among many other Scandinavian foods, was customary fare. These, and other rather simple types



Larson Reunion — 1976. Left to right, Gladys, Mary, Anna, Lars, Nels Goransrud.

of food, potatoes, clabbered milk, and cheeses were also prepared at home.

Mrs. Goransrud was very ill for one whole year. The closest doctor, Dr. Creighton was in Stettler, and he came out by horse and buggy. After being in bed for this lengthy period there was then also a lengthy recuperation period. She suffered no further serious illnesses, and lived to the ripe old age of 83.

In 1937, after 34 years in the district, they decided they couldn't live on the farm anymore, so moved to Donalda. They spent a few years there until they got to the stage where they needed some extra care, and so divided their time among their children's homes.

They both passed away at the age of 83, and both in the year 1947.

Their daughter, Rosie, passed away in 1963. Her only daughter, Myrtle lives in Edmonton.

Anna lives in a Senior Citizens' Lodge in Oliver, British Columbia. She has two sons, Melvin and Ralph. Melvin lives in Vancouver and Ralph in Penticton, British Columbia.

Lars passed away in April, 1978. Lars' son, Larry, lives in Edmonton, his daughter in Galahad, a second son in Calgary and the youngest son Richie on the home farm near Donalda.

Mary lives in a Senior Citizens' residence in Edmonton. Her daughter, Irene, also lives in Edmonton.

Gunil (Gladys) lives in Richmond, Vancouver, British Columbia.

Nels Larson Goransrud owns and farms the old homestead which includes part of Spruce Coulee and resides one half mile from where he was born (1905). His son Grant lives in Hinton, Alberta.

There are a great many Goransruds living in Vancouver and at various points throughout the other western provinces including Winnipeg.

Lars Larson

Lars Larson was born at Pollock, South Dakota and emigrated to Alberta with his parents and family in 1903, when he was five years old.

His father, Lars Larson Goransrud, homesteaded in the Spruce Coulee district east of Donalda, and there Lars grew up, attending Spruce Coulee school when it was opened in 1906.

He grew up with a great interest and love for



Lars Larson, 1924-25.

horses and it remained one of his chief interests all his life.

He farmed two miles east of Donalda across the Meeting Creek valley. In the 1930's he was rural mail driver and drove the school van using horses at both occupations. He also hauled the red shale from the hills in the valley into Donalda which was used on the streets at that time.

There were a number of small coal mines along Meeting Creek, and these provided the coal that heated our buildings then. Hauling this coal in the winter brought many a needed dollar to the farmers of the area, and Lars, using two teams and sleighs, brought many tons into the village. The price delivered was \$3.50 a ton.

Farmers of the 30's had little income and any extra paying jobs were welcome.

In 1926 Lars married Elva Clifford and together they raised three sons and a daughter. The eldest, Larry, lives in Edmonton, being employed by the Edmonton School Board. Bernice (Mrs. Clarence Bernard) lives in Galahad, where they operate a store. Donald lives in Calgary, where he has been employed by the zoo for a number of years.

Richard, who has taken over the home farm, lives there with his wife and family. In 1968 Lars and his wife retired to Donalda, living there until the spring of 1978, when after a lengthy illness, Lars passed away. Elva still resides in Donalda, keeping busy with the Lutheran Ladies Aid and playing the piano for Lutheran Church.

The Nels Larson Family

Nels Larson and his wife Anna (Hoveland) married in September of 1894, in Pollock, South Dakota, immigrated to Donalda with their family of eight children, Luther, Rebecca, Tony, Carl, May, Melvin and Susie, arriving April 8, 1916.

The trip from Pollock to Donalda took three days and nights by train and was quite an exciting experience for the younger members of the family.

They came here to join their relatives who had previously settled in Spruce Coulee area — Mrs. Halvor (Ingaborg) Aspedokken, Mrs. Ole (Ragnild) Paulson, being Nels's sisters, and Lars Larson Goransrud, his brother. Two sisters and two brothers remained in the United States.

Nels Aspedokken (Halvor's son) had gone to Pollock to help the Larsons with their move. He and



Nels' seventy-third birthday and Anna Larson, 1934. New picket fence just finished by Nels at home in Spruce Coulee. Crochet cloth by Anna.

Luther travelled with the two carloads of machinery, household effects and livestock, arriving a few days after the family.

They were soon comfortably settled with relatives until a dwelling on their place was completed for them — two large granaries pulled together and conditioned to serve as a humble abode, until their two story log home had the addition built to it and was finished enough to move into.

Shelters for the livestock were also completed before the winter came.

This quarter of land on which they settled was the N.E. ¼ 30-41-17-w4. Six miles east and one mile south of Donalds or one mile south of Spruce Coulee Cemetery, it was Raymond Carruthers' homestead they had purchased. Mr. Carruthers was a brother of Mrs. Van Blarcom also of the area east of Donalds.

The Larson children walked to Spruce Coulee School, two and one-half miles away, packing their lunch pails and their water supply for the day. Their teacher Mr. James Jones put them through their paces.

Luther purchased some land from Lew Halseth, the N.W. ¼ 13-41-17-w4, which had been C.P.R. land and was southeast of his family's home, along the Battle River Ridge.

In July of 1916, the Larson family were invited to the Halvor Aspedokkens for Sunday dinner, the evening before they were to go, a snow storm came and by morning the ground was completely white. Not being used to the weather pattern of this country, they used the sleigh and team instead of the democrat, then the sun came out and melted most of the snow by the afternoon, so they borrowed the democrat from the Aspedokkens to return home, it turned out to be very nice day.

Nels tells of how it froze every month the first year they came here, but the years after were very much better, and they were pleased with their new surroundings, and the country.

It was quite different from North Dakota and the miles and miles of dry rolling plains, here were valleys and hills covered with evergreen trees and groves of lovely poplar trees so useful for their log buildings and rail fences as well as for fuel.

Coal was another fuel in plentiful supply, in all the hills around them as well as in the one on which they were located.

This resource was a great advantage to the young men in the area, needless to say, it took hard labour to reach it, pick and shovel with manpower behind it, but it meant employment for them during the winter months.



Lide and Rebecca with their two girls, Viola and Fern, 1926, the day they left for California. Taken in the yard near the Alf. Lee home. Notice the S. F. Lee store and boardinghouse in the upper left hand corner.

These boys were soon in there along with the other young fellows, their caps on with carbide lamps on the front, learning of the dangers and precautions to be taken and then the pushing out of the loaded coal cars, later to digging, opening and propping rooms.

The large black shining gem-like lumps were loaded into coal cars pushed out onto the tipples and dumped into the coal haulers boxes waiting their turn beneath it, so they could return home or take it to their customers.

Most farm homes had a coal bin near the kitchen door where the coal was shoveled into by hand and later carried into the houses in pails and put into the stoves to burn.

The large lumps were used to burn at nights and the smaller pieces used when a quick hot fire was needed for cooking. The chore of carrying the coal in, and to carry the ashes out from the stoves, was usually done by the children.

All homes were heated by coal in the winter as well as all the business places in all the towns around. So the hauling of coal was a project of its own. Anyone who had good strong horses and sleigh boxes that could carry the load, and go regardless of the weather or roads would make a business of it. Much of the time four horses were used on the larger loads.

It was a common sight to see the men in their heavy coats, walking behind their loads to keep warm, as the horses trudged on with the reins tied to the box, when they were warmed they would climb aboard and ride again. It would be an all day journey

for most, as some would go as far as Stettler or Bashaw. Donaldda being a rest area on the way through.

The flu epidemic of 1918 struck all the members of the family except Carl, who was able to care for the stock and chores.

Pete Larson, a brother of Nels was there to help out while the family were ill, Mrs. Gust Friberg and Mrs. Chris Halseth also came to help. Adults wore cloth masks tied over their noses and under their chins, except for pipe smokers, such as Nels, left the lower ties undone. All children were kept at home.

When these folks had recovered and were strong again, they in turn were out helping others that were ill, and in due time it had taken its course and subsided.

Not everyone recovered, many families lost loved ones, and Luther was one of these, a victim of the malady and was laid to rest in Spruce Coulee cemetery on January 1, 1919.

Albin Norman was very helpful here and to many other families during this time, giving a hand at building some very fine coffins for neighbors and friends.

Funerals were held at the homes, not only during the flu epidemic, but later as well, as long as there were only horses to travel with, until churches were built nearer.

Spring came and with it welcome warm weather and pleasant days that helped to crowd the rough experiences of the winter aside. Crops and gardens were planted, farm and home life was as busy as ever and the energetic members of the family kept things aglow.

On Sunday afternoons the young fellows in the area, including the Larson boys, would gather for some fun, but would evade the question if asked where they'd been, or as to what they had been doing. It wasn't until the wee hours one Monday morning that a thundering noise and a heavy thud, woke the Larson household. There was Tony at the foot of the stairs, his legs tightly clasped around the mattress, a perfect ride.

It was then his parents realized that this episode was a reaction of the performance that must have taken place prior to retirement the evening before.

This had been the Sunday sport these young fellows in the neighborhood had been sharing in secrecy, rounding up the cattle that roamed at large and ride them out of the corrals and make-shift chutes, built out among the groves of trees in the open sections. Little did they know then, that their fun would develop into one of the world's most exciting sports events.



Anna Larson spinning.

Nels had great patience, and was always repairing something, whittling or carving. He could smooth out the roughest spots and make handy wooden kitchen gadgets and tools, from egg beater whips to kettle scrapers.

His fences were always made of peeled rails or pickets, with ends cut and tapered most carefully.

He spent his winter evenings and cold blustery days inside with his shoe repairs, replacing half soles, sewing up seams or whatever else was needed. He could tear a shoe apart and replace the worn part, sew it back together by hand, oil and polish it and make it look like new. This was all done with leather

parts. He had shoe forms carved to fit every size shoe from the smallest size up.

Milking cows, separating the milk and making butter in the large barrel churn was a regular chore and the girls were helpers here, down in the coolness of the basement the butter was moulded into pounds, wrapped in Dairy Butter parchment paper and later taken into the stores to be sold. The butter for home use was usually stored in crocks. Eggs were also carefully gathered and kept fresh and sold to the stores too.

Anna Larson also made cheese, she had been accustomed to handling dairy products back in her home land. As a girl, her father would take the cows and goats up into the summer pasture in the mountains and she would go and stay with them, milking and making butter and cheese from the milk. Her father would come up to her hut twice a week and take the butter and cheese to the market. Later in the summer she would go down the mountain and the cows and sheep would be taken down and fed in the yards.

The baking of bread was another regular in the routine of their busy lives. Large loaves with fresh home made butter and jam. Lefse was another regular treat.

The washing of wool on a warm breezy day so it could dry quickly was an annual procedure so it would be ready for carding and spinning as soon as the harvest work was finished.

Anna did all her knitting by hand, many pairs of socks and mitts were completed each winter as well as sweaters, scarves, and toques and in the earlier days even the underwear were knitted.

She was an ardent supporter of the Ladies' Aid, doing knitted items to be sold on the sales, and carding wool for the quilts they made, as well as to help stitch them.

She also taught Sunday School and helped out with parochial school during the summer. They were members of the Lutheran Church and helped out all they could with whatever they could to support its' work.

Their family grew and went out around the area to work, others were married.

In May of 1929, they received word that their daughter, Rebecca was seriously ill in California, being anxious about her, plans were hurriedly made. May and Gottfrid took Anna (May's mother) with them in their touring Star car and went on their way to make the journey, but distance and time was against them and she passed away the day before they could get there. She was put to rest in a cemetery in Red

Bluff, California, leaving three young children and her husband Lide Barber.

With the slowing down of construction work and wages dropping, Lide was at a loss as to what he should do. Anna offered to take them home with her and raise them, so the children were made ready and they travelled back to Canada with their Grandma, Auntie and Uncle.

On returning to Donalda, Viola age seven started school and in the fall of next term, Fern started school. They were raised and loved and cared for as their own.

Times grew harder as the 30's approached but everyone was experiencing the same pinch and in the 40's things started to improve.

The Nels Larson children were all married and scattered throughout Alberta and British Columbia. Nels and Anna visited their daughter May in Port Coquitlam and the climate being very much to their liking, they decided it would be a nice place to spend their retirement years.

So on coming home to Donalda started to make preparations for an Auction Sale, which they had in the fall of 1943. Mr. C. E. Hornady was the Auctioneer.

They rented their land to their nephew Otto Paulson, who later bought the property and they left by rail for Port Coquitlam, British Columbia.

It was there in September of 1944, and they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary and enjoyed their retirement years. After a lingering illness, Nels passed away in 1946 at the age of 85 years. Anna kept busy with her needle work and enjoying her grandchildren, and family around her as well as the church and its activities until her passing in 1962 at the age of 90 years.

Tony Larson

Tony Larson was born in 1903, son of Nels and Anna Larson, who immigrated to the Donalda area from Pollock, South Dakota in 1916.

He married Cora Lien in 1928 in Stettler, Alberta during the depression years. Cora is the daughter of Jesse and Lena Lien who immigrated from Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, and homesteaded in the Rosebush area in 1901. Tony and Cora farmed in the Donalda area for a number of years. During this time, Tony also worked in various mines in the district.

It was during this time that the two eldest children were born. Kenneth, born in Donalda in 1929, Arla in Willow Park in 1930.

The family moved to the Lien homestead in Rosebush district where Audrey was born in 1933, and Donald in 1936. It was from this farm that

Kenneth, Arla and Audrey started school at Rosebush Country Schoolhouse. They remained in this home for 5 years, then moved to the Rosebush mine which Tony operated until 1941. The following spring, moving back to Spruce Coulee, where he worked in the Milburn mine, in the coulee hills, south of Spruce Coulee, where all 4 children attended the school where their father was educated.

Tony was badly hurt while working in this mine, it caved in suddenly, without warning, due to blasting that had been done before he took over. Unaware of the shaky condition he wasn't prepared and was crushed under some of the falling timbers, dirt, and coal.

He spent the winter of 1943 in the hospital at Stettler and later the University Hospital at Edmonton.

After recovering from his back injuries, Tony was employed at the Chris Hanson mine at Coal Valley.

In 1945, a new venture was undertaken, moving to a small lumbering town, eighty miles west of Edmonton, and being employed by the Swanson Lumber Co. at Northville. First driving the yard's lumber wagon, later, as he learned the business, he became a foreman and remained here for 7 years. When this mill burned down, they moved to Prince George, B.C. Here Tony again worked in the lumber business until his retirement in 1973. After many years of employment in Canada's 3 foremost industries — farming, mining and lumber, he and his wife have settled into retirement in their home in Prince George. Both Tony and Cora enjoy bowling with the senior citizens club. Tony's team were the proud winners of the gold medal for the Northern B.C. winter games in 1978. They enjoy a variety of social gatherings at the senior citizens center, as well as gardening in the summertime. He is also an avid coin collector. In 1972, Tony and Cora visited his birthplace in Pollock, South Dakota, renewing old acquaintances and reminiscing about their young lives. He found the location of the old Larson homestead, by the trees he remembered planting as a young boy, with his older brother Luther.

Their oldest son Ken, moved to Burns Lake in 1950, where he was employed by the C.N.R. Ken was married in 1954 to a local girl from Burns Lake. Their oldest child Arnie was born in 1955, Gwen 1957, Dale 1959, Jim 1960, and Larry in 1962. Ken left the C.N.R. in 1961 to work for a local lumber company where he was a foreman until August 1979, when he took employment with the Alberta Forest Products Assoc. in Edmonton as a lumber inspector, throughout Alberta. Gwen was married to Gordon

Douglas in 1976. They have one son, Ryan. The boys are all employed in the Burns Lake area in the lumber and ranching industries.

In 1950, Arla married Art McDermid in Wildwood, Alberta. Here their daughter Arlene was born. They moved to a logging camp at Willow River, B.C. in 1951, living there for 10 years. Their sons, Murray and Donald were born here. In 1961, the family moved to Prince George. Arlene married Donald Van Blarcom, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Van Blarcom, early Donalds pioneers. They have one daughter, Dana. Murray is involved in the logging business. Donald attends the College of New Caledonia.

Audrey left school when the family moved to Prince George and was employed at the Prince George Regional Hospital. She married and had three daughters, Debra, born 1953, Gail, 1955, and Donna 1956. Audrey has been employed by the B.C. Telephone on a permanent basis since 1957. She married in 1969 to Ray Cleghorn, also employed at B.C. Telephones. All the girls are married. Debra married Denis Vandal, they have 2 children, Shawna and Tony, (a namesake for great-grampa Tony). Gail married Phillip Vandal and has 1 daughter, Willow Lyn. Donna married Monte Ubdegrove, they have 2 children, Cathy and Julie. All the girls' husbands are employed in the logging business.

Donald worked for a short time in the lumber business in Prince George, but much preferred mechanics. He moved to Edmonton and enrolled in the Chicago vocational training program. After graduating, he was employed by R. Angus Caterpillar, where he worked until 1978. Then the company transferred him to Fort McMurray to manage their new plant at the tar sands. Donald has 2 children, Clay, born in 1957, and Valerie born in 1959. Both are employed in Edmonton.

In 1977 our entire family returned to this school (Spruce Coulee) to celebrate the Larson family reunion. They all enjoyed the 2 days renewing old acquaintances.

Carl Larson Family (Third son)

Carl Larson married Ruby Welch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Welch who had come into the Centennial District in 1915, then moved to Edson in their covered wagon in 1918. Carl went to Edson to work and married Ruby there in 1925. They came back to Donalds and in October of 1927 their first son George was born.

In 1929 they moved to Winfield where Carl worked in bush camps and sawmills and on February



Carl Larson family, 1959.

9, 1930 a daughter Anna was born, on May 28, 1933 another son Luther came to join the family.

They moved their family and belongings back to Donalda in the fall of 1934 with wagons, and settled along the river ridge on the place that had belonged to his older brother Luther and farmed there.

George and Anna started school, going to Willow Park. While they lived there two more sons were born, Henry on April 24, 1937 and Clayton on October 22, 1939.

In 1942 they moved back to Winfield again where Carl did logging and wood cutting and hauled it into the town of Winfield, but in 1944 they moved back east of Donalda where Carl set up a sawmill and sawed lumber for Lawrence Bruce and neighboring farmers as well doing some farming for himself. Here in 1945 on February 8th, Melvin was born, then Gladys on September 27th of 1946 and Lloyd on August 30th of 1947. The children all went to Spruce Coulee School and the three younger ones finished in Donalda School.

They bought the old Sterns place in 1952, in the Willow Park district where they farmed and sawed lumber. After a lingering illness Carl passed away on October 2nd, 1960, in Camrose. The boys farmed the place for a while, sold it and went to Valley View where they took up homesteads, and Ruby went to Millet where she did housework.

George married Emma Radke in 1954, they lived in Bashaw for a while, then moved to British Columbia. They had two children, Bradley and Gloria, George passed away after a lengthy illness in 1966. Emma and her family still live in British Columbia at Port Coquitlam. Bradley is married and has a young son Garry.

Anna married Reinhold Warnke of Wetaskiwin in 1952, they had a family of eight, Carolyn, Larry,

Wilfred, Doris, Florence, Vera, Nancy and Norman. They have lived in Millet until recently, Anna passing away in April of 1972 after a lingering illness. Carolyn married David Maplethorpe in 1974, they live in Wetaskiwin with their little daughter, Julie



Carl and Luther sawing lumber.

Anna. Doris married George Csernansky in 1977 and resides in Millet. Florence and Vera live in Edmonton where they're employed as secretaries with the Government. Larry and Wilfred are working, Wilfred is working in MacLeods, Nancy and Norman are at home with their father in Wetaskiwin, still in school.

Henry and Clayton moved to Valley View in the spring of 1967 where they took out homesteads, Ruby and Melvin joined them later and Melvin has been doing farm work in the area. Clayton was killed in an accident near Valley View in June of 1976.

Luther married Eva Sikes of Sunnybrook in June of 1970, they have been on a ranch near Ponoka, until recently, they moved to Valley View and have homesteaded near Henry and Ruby.

Gladys is married to Frank Ford, they have two children, Sandra and Garry, they live in Prince George, British Columbia.

Lloyd is married has three children, Christine, Wayne and Romona, they live at Eckville.

Melvin Larson

by Ethel Larson

Melvin Larson was born November 30, 1908, and came to Alberta with his parents, the Nels Larsons, brothers and sisters in 1916.

He went to Spruce Coulee School with the others of his family and enjoyed his school days very much — especially when he and other boys were planning or playing pranks on someone. He worked around the area and soon ventured out with other boys,

looking for jobs in various parts of Alberta, Turner Valley, Edmonton, and finally to Winfield, where his brother Carl and family lived. He worked in the bush, with his team of heavy horses, hauling out logs for ties and cordwood.

It was here in Winfield that he met and married Ethel in 1931. Melvin worked at Walter Carl's Mill, where he was a sawyer, and later a planer foreman. The going wage then in the bush was \$20.00 a week. Had it not been for the wild meat that was available in that area, life would have been much harder. However, we managed even with 3 small boys, from my previous marriage. Melvin would go to the prairies at harvest time to stook and thresh, bringing in extra cash. In 1932, a baby daughter, Rebecca Pearl, came to enrich our lives. Work at the mill seemed harder to come by, so we moved to Pigeon Lake where Melvin found employment at a dairy farm until harvest time again, and we moved to Elk Point where my people lived.

We rented a farm there and farmed until 1936, and while we lived there, Jean and Nels were born.

We then moved to Donalda, to the Nels Larson farm, taking care of it while Melvin's parents spent the winter in Peace River. Melvin also worked in a coal mine that winter, then in the spring, we moved and rented a farm of our own.

In April 1937, our daughter, Viola was born. The neighbors and friends of the Spruce Coulee area gave us a baby shower — and it was very much appreciated. We hadn't been in the district very long, but I was getting acquainted and met some new and very friendly people whom I still often think about. Our boys attended school at Spruce Coulee.

We decided we should go homesteading, so packed our family and possessions in a car and trailer and left for Elk Point. We were fortunate to find an abandoned homestead which had a 20 acre field of alfalfa growing on it. So we got a cow and a calf, a team of horses, and some chickens, built a house on it, and had our own place in 1938. Here Irene was born to us. Melvin worked for other families — threshing, etc. besides tending our own farm.

In 1940, a son, Cecil was born, and 1942 we went to B.C. for a short time but soon came back to our farm again.

Some of the neighbors had logs they wanted sawed into lumber, so Melvin rigged up a mill, and all were kept busy for a while sawing these logs into lumber. In May, 1944 a daughter, Fern was born, and in May 1945, a son, Richard.

My mother passed away here and we heard that there was mill work at Prince George, so we moved out there. Melvin worked as a millwright until 1957,

then built a garage and operated it for a few years. By this time 4 more children were born, Karen, in 1948, Judy, in 1949, Carl, in 1952, and Larry, in 1953.

In 1964 we moved to Kelowna where Melvin worked at a John Deere Equipment and Tractor Shop until his back was hurt and he was on compensation for 2 years. He was never able to do heavy work again, but did welding from his shop at home as well as some mechanical work. Melvin passed away after a lingering illness in 1975.

We'd had a very happy life together despite the hardships which we look back upon now and are grateful for the progress made in our time.

Our family has grown up — all are married, with families of their own, except Ricky, Larry and Carl.

George — has a welding and machine shop at Port Alberni, B.C. and works on logging equipment. He has 3 daughters, all married.

Allen — was in the R.C.A.F. for 23 years, spending a few years in Germany, where he met and married Carla. He now operates a trucking business in Edmonton. A daughter, Dita, attends College in Edmonton. A son Leslie died in a car accident when he was a small boy.

Raymond — is a heavy equipment operator and works with Viola's husband, Barry Eberle.

Becky — married Bill Wilson, who has a welding business and parts store, also does mechanical work. Their son, Bill, works in partnership with them. He has 2 daughters, Narda and Barb, both married; Narda has a son, and Barb a daughter.

Jean — passed away with leukemia in 1962.

Nels — joined the navy at age 17, served 2 years and was discharged for medical reasons. He married Dotty Rossi, worked as a millwright in Prince George, B.C. became a welder until his death in a car accident in May 1979, leaving his wife, 5 girls and a son.

Viola — is married to Barry Eberle who does heavy duty contracting for B.C. Hydro. They lost their son, Calvin in a car accident. Joy, a daughter, works at City Hall in Kelowna and was married in July 1978. Debbie works in a bank and David is in High School. They live on an acreage with a few animals — a new home with a swimming pool which is a joy to their family.

Irene — married to Paul Serko, they have 4 children. Paul works on Road Building Equipment. Their daughter, Judy works for a Finance Co. in Vancouver. Lynda is secretary in a law firm; twins Larry and Garry are still in school.

Irene herself, plays ball on a team that has travelled across Canada.

Cecil — and Bambi live in Prince George, B.C.

He has a trucking business there. They have 3 children.

Earl — and Pat live in Kelowna. He is a mechanic and Pat does bookkeeping. They have 2 boys.

Richard has Downs Syndrome so is at home with his mother and is a great help to her — shopping and running errands for her. During his father's illness, they grew very close, and Richard being a very lovable person, has missed his father very much.

Karen and Perry Jesske have 2 girls, 8 and 6 years of age. Perry is a salesman travelling through the southern part of B.C. We enjoy having them live near us.

Judy — the youngest daughter, and husband Ray, live in Kelowna. They have a girl and a boy going to school. Ray is a carpenter for a trailer company and Judy is a saleslady, also does some babysitting.

Carl is at Ft. McMurray where he manages a fast foods establishment for McDonald's. He has over 100 employees under him at this 24 hour outlet.

Larry — is working for a tire shop in Kelowna and has been employed there for 6 years.

I am very lucky to have so many of my family near me. I am always interested to hear from them and their families. Their experiences and lives are so different from those of ours in the past.

Agna — Third daughter of Anna and Nels Larson.

I was four and a half years old when, with my parents, four brothers and three sisters arrived in Alberta from Pollock, South Dakota and settled in the Spruce Coulee district. I have many happy memories of my childhood on the farm. We lived on the Coulee bank with the creek running below, we had great fun playing on these hills winter and summer.

There always seemed to be an abundance of wild berries along the Coulee in the summertime that we'd pick and mother would soon have them in jars, made into jams, jellies and fruit that was a treat to us all during the winter. Times were hard on the farm but we had good wholesome food. We usually had a good garden with vegetables stored in the basement for winter use.

The school was two and half miles from our home, a one-room building like all other country schools where the teacher taught all grades from one to eight. We had a variety of teachers and we all learned to read and write. In winter we would huddle around the stove to keep warm. The bathrooms were at the back of the school yard, in winter the teacher knew we didn't want to make that trip unless abso-



Agna and Norman 1939.

lutely necessary, in summer, we used the excuse quite often. Many of the children walked to school, except for those who lived a couple or more miles away, would drive or ride horseback. We walked most of the time.

One thing very special about the small country schools were the good Christmas Concerts the teachers planned and prepared, so much work went into them. The pupils were always happy when they could put work books away to practice for its enjoyable presentation. During the summer holidays, Lutheran Bible School was held in the school for a couple of weeks for anyone who wished to attend. This helped me prepare for Confirmation later in the Donalda Lutheran Church. The school house was quite often used for Church Services. I remember Church Services being held in our home too. Some funerals were also held there, the Spruce Coulee Cemetery was only a mile north of our place.

Our nearest doctor was in Stettler and with money being scarce, we didn't call a doctor for every little thing, so many home remedies were used, goose grease and turpentine for chest colds (I can still smell it). When I had tonsillitis, it was kereosene and something else (I cannot recall), with a wool sock around my neck. It was a cure for me then, but I don't really recommend it. In later years when there was a doctor in Donalda, I had my tonsils out in his office.

Our entertainment was of our own making and as we lived so near the Coulee, it was great for coasting and skiing. Our Dad was quite handy so made our sleighs and skiis. We had great fun with many tumblers in the snow.

To be outdoors we dressed warmly, girls didn't have slacks to wear then, but with Mother being such a good knitter we had long wool stockings, mitts, scarves and toques, to go with our warm wool coats, which she had also sewn. Mother made her yarn for knitting, she washed, carded and spun the wool into yarn, made it into skeins and dyed it the color we liked. Then we would wind it into large balls to help her get it ready for knitting.

Mother taught us girls how to knit, crochet, tat, embroider, sew and quilt, though we could never measure up to her ability. When she was President of the Ladies' Aid, I remember quilts set up in our living room quite often, that's when we learned to quilt. Those years on the farm passed so quickly.

When I was sixteen years of age I went to work at Patterson's store (now Lucky Dollar), I was there for ten years. I enjoyed it there, meeting people from all the Districts around Donalda. There were still many horse drawn vehicles when I first went there to work and the gravel roads to other towns kept people shopping in their own town. It was a general store, groceries, clothing, shoes, china, yard goods, etc. We bought butter and eggs that we graded for a few years. It wasn't a self serve while I was there, we were given a list of items needed and we filled the orders. During my first years at the store, Saturday nights were the busiest, farmers and their families came to town, ordered their groceries, the women and children usually went to the show, the men went to the Pool Hall or the Hotel. They would meet back at the store around ten thirty, pick up their groceries and be on their way home. Those were the days when children could get a big bag of candy for a nickle and there was all kinds of penny candy.



Agna and Norman McLeod and boys 1949.

June 27, 1937, Norman McLeod and I were married. Norman had lived in Donalda for four years, he worked on farms and did trucking. He lived with his sister and brother-in-law, Clara and Albert Hilde.

March 1938 we moved to Duchess, where we lived for twelve years. Our family of three sons was born there, Roger August 26, 1938, Allan October 25, 1940 and Lloyd January 27, 1944. From Duchess we moved to Tilley for a couple years, then to Central Alberta, Joffre, Clive and later to Sylvan Lake, where we've lived for the last twenty years.

Norman worked at various jobs over the years, he did trucking for a number of years, was employed at a seed plant, bought grain, drove a school bus and was caretaker of a school. While in Clive he did carpenter work and it was when he was working on the Lacombe school that he fell and broke his back and leg. He was in a cast for many months in Lacombe hospital and then in Edmonton.

While taking therapy in Edmonton, he took a bookkeeping course and after receiving his diploma was employed as Bookkeeper for Texaco Garage in Sylvan Lake. Now retired he keeps busy with his woodwork, lawn furniture, desks and doll houses, (we have eight granddaughter).

Our boys went from High School into work they preferred, working and studying to advance in their professions. Roger developed Rheumatoid Arthritis at the age of eleven years and spent seventeen months in the hospital in Calgary. He came home in a wheelchair, later managed to walk with crutches and after four years was back at school again. He had kept up in his school work while in the hospital and at home and graduated with the other students his age. He also had the honor of being Valedictorian. He is now a Certified General Accountant. Before having a business of his own he spent four years with the Federal Government in Ottawa as Income Tax Inspector. On his return to Alberta bought a business in Red Deer, a few years later sold out and moved to High River and opened a C.P.A. business. He, his wife Audrey and three girls; Kari eleven, Michelle nine, and Lisa seven, live on an acreage three miles out of High River.

Allan went to work for the Royal Bank in Lacombe at the age of seventeen, worked in Edmonton and Calgary. Was Bank Inspector for several years, then to the Main branch Montreal, from there to Royal Bank Trust in New York. He has been there for nine years, is now a Vice President. His three daughters; Wanda, Julie and Diane with their Mother moved back to Calgary six years ago. Marilyn works at Royal Bank, main branch as loans officer. Wanda our oldest granddaughter was married this year to

Geoff. Karpis. It was a garden wedding in our yard. They live in Vancouver, British Columbia. Wanda like her Mother and Father is employed by the Royal Bank. Geoff works in a Auto body shop.

Our youngest son Lloyd was still in school when we moved to Sylvan Lake and completed his High School in Red Deer. After he graduated he went to work on oil rigs for a couple years, and then was accepted for training with the R.C.M.P. at Regina, where he spent nine months. When he graduated was posted to Vancouver, British Columbia and has worked that area since. He is now Corporal with the Richmond Detachment and works in the office. It is only a ten minute drive from his home in Richmond where he lives with his wife Marlene and girls; Dayna seven and Terri two.

Susena (Larson) Sproule

Susie was born in September of 1915 in Pollock, South Dakota, coming to the Spruce Coulee area with her parents and seven brothers and sisters. She received her education at Spruce Coulee and Donalds Schools. She went to parochial school during the summer months, to Sunday School and was confirmed in the Sharon Lutheran Church in Donalds.

She was married to Evan Loberg from Valhalla Centre in 1931 and went to the Hythe area to make her home. To this union three children were born; Peter, Arvid and Anne Marie who are all married and have children married with families.

Arvid is an architect in Calgary where he lives with his wife and family of six boys. Peter is in Northern Alberta with his family, and Anne resides



Susie (Larson) and her husband Ed Sproule.

in British Columbia with her husband and grown family.

Susie and her husband Ed Sproule have retired at Terrace, B.C. after moving about the province where Ed's work has taken them. He was a powder man and blaster for the Department of Highways.

Their son Dale is at home with them, their daughter Carol, her husband and family reside in the near vicinity.

Susie and Ed have been Foster Parents to several homeless children, raising them from babies to adulthood, Lorna at the age of nine and her sister at the age of three came to live with them, took their schooling in Terrace, are now married with children, and live near them.

Hilroy and Wayne, two little Indian brothers, came to them at the age of three and four years, are completing their school are still at home. Gary, another little Indian boy came to their home when he was one year of age, in poor health, he is now a very active boy, enjoying school. These five children were raised together as brothers and sisters, loved and cared for as their own.

Besides these children Susie and Ed have had a number of other small children brought to them that they nursed back to health and placed in other homes.

Susie like her mother and sisters is fond of needle work, being an especially enthusiastic knitter, has knitted many Siwash sweaters and other garments for her family.

Ed a very patient man, keeps busy around their home and his place of business, as well as helping with the children.

Marvin Mason Barber

Marvin was born on January 26, 1928, to Lide and Rebecca Barber, in Gerber, California. He was raised by his grandparents, the Nels Larsons, in Spruce Coulee, where he received some of his education. He also went to Ibsen and Donalds, and enjoyed his school days here.

He left for Port Coquitlan with his grandparents in 1943, where he was soon employed in the saw mills.

He married Noreen August 28, 1948 and settled in Port Moody where he was sawyer at a mill there — and where their 8 children were born. They are — Jerry, Bruce, Lee, Blaine, Becky, Lyle, Lonnie, and Ellie.

Marvin started building homes as a sideline, then went into the restaurant business, later selling it and the homes and buying a small farm at Port Kells, so they could have a cow and chickens as well as pets for the children.



Marvin Barber family, 1965. Back row: Bruce, Gerry, Noreen, Marvin. Front row: Blaine, Lee, Ellie, Becky, Lyle, and Lonnie.

Then a motel business came up for sale in Clearbrook. With the children growing up, he decided to try that. It turned out to be a good venture, except that later, that particular area was needed for a shopping center, so he sold it, bought a home in a new area of Clearbrook, and is now into construction again.

He had worked in the mills long enough to retire but deciding he was too young for that, went back again.

His sons are all mill workers, except Lee who came to Donalda and is working with the Department of Highways. Most of the family are grown and married, scattered around nearby.

The two younger girls, Lonnie and Ellie are still at home, completing their high school education and do some babysitting.

Noreen enjoys her spacious new home and does babysitting for working mothers, as well as her grandchildren from time to time.

Marvin enjoys woodwork, and does inlaid work with different colored woods. He also likes gardening, especially flowers, having many different varieties.

Fern Elna Barber

Mother — Rebecca Larson; — father — Lide Barber

Fern Barber was born February 5, 1923 in Silverton, Oregon, U.S.A. She was raised in Spruce Coulee by her grandparents, the Nels Larsons. Fern attended school at Spruce Coulee, and Grandma Larson taught her the different handicrafts she felt all girls should learn, and Fern became an ardent knitter and quilter.

She worked in different areas throughout Alber-



Fern (Barber) and her husband Al Hyres.

ta, later going back to California, where she met and married Al Hyres.

They live in Tehama, California, where Al works for the Tehama County, as foreman for the Road Department Sign Crew.

Fern keeps busy with her hobbies — knitting, quilting, and gardening. She has made some very lovely quilts as well as some knitted spreads.

They have one daughter Vicki, married. She and her husband, Marvin, live in Cresent City, California where they operate an Auto Body Shop. They have 6 children in school, that help out around the shop part time.

The Paulson Family

Ole and Ragnhild Paulson —

The Ole and Ragnhild Paulson family arrived from Pollock, South Dakota to Wetaskiwin, Alberta by immigrant train on July 8, 1903. From there they made their way out to their new homestead by team and wagon to what is now known as the Spruce Coulee district with their four children, Henry, Andrew, Otto, and Louis. For the first while they lived in the wagon boxes covered with canvas while they were building their first one-room house.

Six more children were born on the homestead — Gunhild, Rosie, Margaret, Nels, Minnie, and Inga.

Ragnhild Paulson passed away in 1918 and Ole Paulson in 1924. Both are buried in the Spruce Coulee Cemetery.

Henry Paulson —

Henry Paulson was born on April 29, 1893 in Michel, South Dakota. He was 10 years old when he came with his family to the homestead. The first school he attended was Willow Park until the Spruce



Gladys and Henry Paulson and family: Arne and Alice Norman, Irene and Gordon Norman, Lois and Lloyd Paulson.

Coulee district was formed in 1906, and he was one of the first pupils. He grew up in this district, helping to bring up his younger brothers and sisters after the death of his mother in 1918.

He farmed on several farms in the district, working in local mines in the winters as many farmers did in those days in order to make a living.

Henry married Gladys Montgomery of Daysland and most of their married life was spent on their farm east of Donalda. The Spruce Coulee Cemetery is on their home quarter of land. Here they raised their family — Irene, Alice and Lloyd — having lost a daughter, Hazel in infancy. In 1957, their house was struck by lightning and completely destroyed by fire. They rebuilt on the same place.

Henry was poor in health for many years and in 1968 he and his wife retired to Camrose where they lived until the passing of his wife in August, 1974. For the last 3 years he resided in the Bethany Nursing Home in Camrose, passing away there on July 18, 1979. Henry and Gladys are both buried in the Spruce Coulee Cemetery.

Irene Paulson — married Gordon Norman and lives on a farm at Bonnyville, Alberta. They raised nine children.

Louise — married Roger Block. They have 3 children, Carol, Diane, and David, and live east of Donalda.

Kenneth — married Donna Charlesworth. They have three children, Patti Lynn, Dean, and Kathy. They live in Donalda.

Bernice — married Allen Dietrich. They have 3 children, Brenda, Billy and Bobby and live at Heisler.

Dwayne — married Lillian Cameron. They have 2 children, Rhonda and Ian, and live in Donalda.

Lorraine — married Steve Lychak. They have 4 children, Shane, Karen, Leonard, and Carmen and live at Derwent, Alberta.

Neil — married Bernadette Campeau. They have 2 children, Lyle, and Roxanne, Neil lost his life in an industrial accident in February, 1979. He is buried in the Spruce Coulee Cemetery.

Marilyn — married Fernard Campeau. They have 2 children, Brian and Sandra, and live at Fort McMurray, Alberta.

Murray and Merle are still at home.

Alice Paulson — married Arne Norman and lives on a farm east of Donalda. They have four children.

Elaine — married Dennis Helfer of Donalda. They live on a farm, have 3 daughters, Tammy, Trena, and Tricia.

Diane — married Ed Congdon. They have 2 sons, Kyle and Brent, and live at Edson.

Joan — married Lenord Blouin. They have 2 sons Scott and Richard, and live at Hinton.

Rodney — married Karen Clarke. They have 1 son, Christopher. They lived east of Donalda.

Lloyd Paulson — married Lois Soderstrom. They live on the family farm east of Donalda, have 3 children, Wayne, Bruce and Wanda, who are all still at home.

Andrew Paulson —

Andrew was 8 years old when the family came to the homestead. He lost his sight at the age of nine. He went to Brantford, Ontario for a short time, learning to read braille and do leather work. When he grew up, even though he was blind, he walked around the neighborhood by himself, selling Cressy Products and visiting. He also cut brush along the roadside for the municipality and split many a woodpile. He spent the last few years of his life in the Bethany Nursing Home in Camrose. He passed away on December 31, 1965 and is buried in the Spruce Coulee Cemetery.

Otto Paulson —

Otto Paulson was 3 years old when the family came to the homestead. He got his education in the Spruce Coulee school. When he got older he worked for various farmers in the summer and in local coal mines in the winter months until 1940. By this time he had acquired several quarters of land and was occupied with mixed farming. He was united in marriage to Mabel Dickey in 1927. They lived on the Paulson homestead for a while, then moved to the Dickey farm in the Meeting Creek Valley, south east of Donalda, the farm of Mabel's parents. He was on the Spruce Coulee School board for many years, and



Ole and Ragnhild Paulson and sons Henry, Andrew, and Otto. Taken about 1902.

was a director of the Donalda Co-op Creamery for 26 years.

At the present time they are living in Donalda but still have the farm, doing some farming himself, and renting out some of the land. They have one daughter, Alleen, and lost one son in infancy.

Alleen married Herb Awe, they have one daughter, Maureen, and farm south west of Donalda. One highlight in the lives of Otto and Mabel was the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary in December of 1977, when their many friends and relatives came to honor them at an open house in the Donalda Community Hall, put on by Spruce Coulee Ladies Aid and daughter, Alleen.

Louis Paulson —

Louis Paulson left the Donalda area and went to the U.S.A. in 1928. He was married to Wilma Tupker and they had four children, Lyle, Ronald, Richard, and James. Wilma passed away in March 1974. Louis was later married to Mrs. Mary Barnes, still residing in Vancouver, Washington. Louis is retired and busy with his hobby of collecting and polishing rocks, and making jewellery.

Gunil Paulson —

Gunil Paulson left the Donalda area and went to the U.S.A. in 1922, where she married Lile Barber. They have 7 children, William, Melvin, Lucille, Raymond, Hurley, Illeen, and Louis. All are married and living in the U.S.A. Lile passed away in 1971.

Rosie Paulson —

Rosie Paulson passed away in 1925, at the age of

19, after undergoing surgery, and is buried in the Spruce Coulee Cemetery.

Margaret Paulson —

Margaret Paulson married George Skogstad and lived on the Paulson homestead until Margaret passed away in 1938. They had 3 children under school age at this time. George then moved with his children, Maurice, Florence, and Leona to Bellingham, Washington, where his parents, the Hans Skogstads, helped him raise his family. His daughter, Florence passed away in 1976. George still lives in Washington and makes periodic visits back to his friends and neighbors at Donalda.

Nels Paulson —

Nels Paulson left the Spruce Coulee district in the fall of 1939. He worked in the Drumheller mines until December of 1943. Then he joined the seismograph and is still with them. His one son, Kent, lives in Calgary. His wife was deceased in July, 1978.

Minnie Paulson —

Minnie Paulson was born on December 3, 1913. She was the fourth daughter of Ole and Ragnhild Paulson. My mother, Ragnhild, passed away in 1918. I was only 4 years old and I remember them taking her away.

Henry, Andrew, Otto, and Gunil, my older brothers, and sister, tried to care for some of us younger ones, Louis, Nels, and myself; while one sister Margaret, went to the Lars Aspedokkens. One other sister, Rosie went to Auntie Aspedokkens (Halvors) and Inga, the baby girl of 3 months was taken care of by some friends, the Chris Halseths who raised her.

I remember being here and there amongst relatives and friends, first at Auntie Larsons (Nels) along with Gunil for a while, and then at the Gust Fribergs. They had a daughter Esther that was the same age as I and Mrs. Friberg called us her twins.

I was over at the Olaf Quesseth's across the way quite a lot, helping out with their children when they were small.

I also stayed at Grandma Loney's (Mrs. Ludwig) and went to school with Alice and Melvin Anderson and a neighbor girl, Selma Ramstad.

Later, the Fribergs were getting their new home finished and asked me to come back and stay with them again so I did, until little by little I kept helping out at different homes in the neighborhood — the Nelson's, Henry and Gladys' when Alice was born, the Montgomery's, Otto and Mabel's, and then, out to the Slater's where I worked steady for quite some time before going to Calgary to work for Mr. and Mrs. Adams, until my sister, Margaret, took ill, and passed away, leaving her husband George Skog-



Paulson Family, 1949. Standing — Henry, Inga, Otto, Andrew and Louis. Seated — Minnie, Nels, and Gunhild.

stad with 3 small children, Maurice (7 years), Florence (3 years), and Leona (1 year). I came back to Donald to help my brother-in-law move down to Bellingham, Washington where his folks were. I stayed in Washington until they were settled, and acquainted, and then went to Vancouver where I worked for six months. On my return to Donald, after a visit to my sister in California, I came to Otto and Mabel's.

I went to work for Agnes and Conrad Halseth and later I went to Edberg to work in Mrs. Michelsons Nursing Home, where she, as a mid-wife, took in expectant mothers from all around the area. There were anxious moments and excitement with emergencies rushing in at any time of day or night, and where, being caught in a bind, I had to care for a Mrs. Kerr where her son was born. I stayed on there until my marriage to Gault Montgomery in July, 1939.

Gault was working for a Mrs. Hatfield at Bashaw. In the fall we built ourselves a shack, as we called it, at the Rosebush coal mine, as Gault was to work there for the winter.

In September of 1940, Ethel, our oldest daughter, was born.

We then rented the place where Jim Adairs live now, and in February of 1943, our second daughter, Joyce, was born.

In 1944, we rented a farm at Meeting Creek and Gault and his brother, Bud, did custom combining for other farmers and they kept the combines going night and day. It was then I broke my arm while cranking the car to take dinner out to the boys in the field. I tried to pick up Joyce along with the lunch and take it to the field. Being unable to do so, I left Joyce with Ethel and ran out to the field. Gault brought me back in the wagon and we had to

look for Ethel because she had proceeded to search for me, thinking her mom was lost. We then went to Camrose to have my arm tended to.

In the winter of 1944-45 we bought the George Hillaby place — later a quarter of land east of Edberg from Odin Olstad and we moved there. In May of 1949 Hazel was born; Donald in March of 1951, and Ronald in January of 1953. In the fall of 1953, Gault passed away with polio. We stayed at our farm home until the girls were grown and went on their own. I then moved to Camrose.

Ethel Montgomery married Don Ekholm in 1958. They have four girls. Marilyn is employed at an insurance company in Stettler. Debbie is employed at the Edmonton Court House. Brenda and Charlene are at home and going to school.

Joyce Montgomery worked around at different places, was married and had 2 boys and 2 girls.

Hazel married Willie Zacharko in 1967. They have 1 boy and 1 girl and farm at Bruderheim.

Ron married Shirley Kissick of Bigger, Saskatchewan in 1972. They have 1 son and live in Camrose.

Donald still lives at home.

I got employment at Bethany Nursing Home in 1968, as a Nurses Aid, and have been there since.

I have had the privilege of caring for many of the folks from areas in which I have lived — all my friends from the past, as well as my brother, Henry Paulson, who was in Bethany Home. Here I was able to keep in close contact with him and drop in for a chat with him on my way home from work. He passed away this summer, 1979.

There is great satisfaction in helping out where folks are so appreciative of everything you do for them.

Inga Paulson —

Inga Paulson was born on September 23, 1917. When her mother died three months later, she was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Christian Halseth.



Minnie Montgomery and family: Ronald, Donald, Ethel, Hazel and Joyce.

On August 10, 1940, Inga married John Miller of Red Willow. John was born in Bern, Switzerland on April 14, 1900 and came to Red Willow in 1921. Shortly after their marriage they moved to Bashaw and raised nine children. Inga died on March 22, 1972, and John died April 29, 1972.

Rose Ann "Elise" — was born June 9, 1941. She married Joseph Chorotkowski in 1971. They have 2 sons, Bradley John (born: September 5, 1973) and Brian James (born: July 19, 1975). They are now residing in Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Carol Lee — was born October 2, 1942. She married Leonard Sorom of Alix on January 16, 1965. They have 2 children, Deborah Marie (born: July 15, 1965) and Dale Leonard (born: September 1, 1967). They are farming in the Alix district.

Sonja Faye — was born on January 28, 1944. She married Don Sim of Tees on August 27, 1966. They have 4 children, Allan MacLeod (born: April 23, 1969), Jody Dawn (born: December 15, 1970), Sandra Faye (born: March 28, 1972), and Barbara Lynn (born: May 12, 1976). Don and Sonja are now living in Red Deer.

John Wilfred — born April 2, 1945. He married Phyllis Gultridge of Three Hills on October 29, 1966. They have 3 girls, Leslie Ellane (born: February 2, 1967), Janeen Elaine (born: January 10, 1974), and Denise Marie (born: June 15, 1976). John and Phyllis are now living in Leduc.

Betty Louise — born on October 11, 1948. She married Allan Silvaniuk of Bashaw on June 10, 1972. They have 2 daughters, Nicole Marie (born: October 16, 1974), and Melanie Dawn (born: April 14, 1978). Betty and Allan are living in Sylvan Lake.

Arla Marie — born on June 8, 1950. She married Gary Orom of Bashaw on June 26, 1970. They had 4 children. Three are living. Stephan Peter (born: December 23, 1970, died July 3, 1972), Loretta Lynn "Lori" (born: December 14, 1972), Khristina Marie "Tina" (born: July 7, 1974), and Chad Darren (born: February 23, 1978). Arla and Gary are farming northwest of Bashaw.

David Arden — was born on December 11, 1955. He is assistant driller for Blocker Drilling and resides in Bashaw.

Margaret Leona — was born on November 7, 1957. She is presently residing in Red Deer and working at Fletchers Fine Foods.

Kenneth Lyle — born on November 10, 1961. He has resided in Yellowknife since 1972 with Elise and Joe.

The Charlie Banta Family

In late summer of 1905, Charlie and Alice Banta

and son Chester arrived in Donalda district, meeting their son Ray, who had come earlier in the spring with a friend, Issac Smith.

Charlie homesteaded a short while after arriving in Alberta. This homestead being in the Spruce Coulee district about three miles north of what is now Spruce Coulee Cemetery.

Ray homesteaded soon after his father, being only sixteen years of age. This was accomplished with the aid of his father's signature. Ray's homestead was situated on the edge of the Meeting Creek Coulee, two miles west and one half mile south of Spruce Coulee Cemetery. The cemetery is a landmark as it is centered in the community. It is on the northwest corner of the quarter which Chester Banta bought later. Ray later sold his homestead to Mr. Logan, who later sold it to Fred Norman. This land still remains in the Norman Family.

Charlie also sold his homestead and it is now owned by Melvin Anderson. Charlie and Alice bought land across the road north of Spruce Coulee Cemetery and lived there many years. Charlie passed away in 1935 and Alice in 1948.

Chester, being a young boy of 12 years of age when they came to Alberta, bought land just south of his parents when he grew older. He passed away in 1920 leaving a young wife of one year, the former Hattie Schweer of Rosalind. A daughter Wilma was born four months after her father's death. Wilma lives in the Rosalind district, having married Allen Bowie. They have two sons, Grant and Roger, who each have two children.

Ray married the former Alpha Orr also of Rosalind district in November 1916. They had two daughters.



Ray, Gladys, Alpha, Kosa, Alice and Charlie Banta.



Gladys, Ray, and Rosa on Ray's 85th birthday, 1974.

ters, Rosa the eldest who married John Stanvik and Gladys who married Simon Stanvik (brothers), sons of Ole Stanvik of Donalda north.

These girls were being introduced to a lady one day and this lady was told they didn't believe in variety.

Rosa had five children, two girls and three boys. Gladys had two boys, the eldest one passed away in 1952 at the age of fourteen in an accidental shooting.

Ray and Alpha lived on various farms in the Spruce Coulee district; their first home was the former "Forkner" place. Both children were born here. They lived in Rosalind for one year (1922). Then back to Spruce Coulee district living on Grandpa Banta's farm, also Chester's farm. In the early thirties Ray bought a quarter section from his father one half mile north of Spruce Coulee School.

Ray and Alpha were fun loving, community minded people and were very family conscious. Their little family was very close and is to this day.

One humorous incident that happened when they attended a community function in Spruce Coulee School was when Alpha and Mrs. Walter Anderson took on the job of making midnight lunch. They went to the teacherage a short way from the schoolhouse and found two large pails of water on the stove, remarking how thoughtful the teacher was to have coffee water ready, they proceeded with their lunch

making. After everyone had lunch and lots of cups of good hot coffee, everyone was getting ready to go home. It was a cold winter night and Ray went to get the water he had drained out of the radiator of his car and set on the stove in the teacherage to stay hot. Imagine the dismay shown by Alpha and Mrs. Anderson when Ray asked them what they had done with his water. Luckily there were no complaints so no harm was done. At that time it was no laughing matter but got funnier as the years went by.

Ray and Alpha lived in Spruce Coulee district most of their lives. Ray built a small sawmill and did some lumbering for a short while. He also worked part time in the coal mines, these being situated south of his farm on the Meeting Creek.

He loved big machinery and had various big tractors. He also did some brushing and breaking of land for farmers in the area. As a young man he had a dream of being an engineer of the railroad but this dream never came to pass.

Alpha was an ardent gardener and her garden and flowers were something to behold.

In the spring of 1943 they moved to the village of Donalda and bought a home there. They both worked for the Stettler County building roads. Ray running 'cats' while Alpha cooked for the road crew. When Alpha's health worsened, Ray took the job of driving the school bus. He did this for 16 years.

They both loved to play cards and spent many winter evenings with friends doing just that. Alpha did a lot of handwork, and working for the Lutheran Ladies Aid was one of her delights.

Alpha passed away in 1951. Ray lived in Donalda until he moved to 'Heart Haven Home' in Stettler, in the fall of 1978.

BANTA — THOMPSON — BOWIE

On December 3, 1919 Chester Banta and Hattie Schweer were married and lived on the groom's farm in the Spruce Coulee district, 6 miles east of Donalda. The Spruce Coulee cemetery was on their land.

Chester contracted the flu and passed away in June, 1920. In October their daughter Wilma was born. Hattie and daughter lived with her parents until 1929, when she married David Thompson and moved to Kingman to operate a general store. They moved to Hattie's farm at Spruce Coulee in the spring of 1931. Two sons were born there, Donald and David. In 1936 they bought a farm at Rosalind where two other children were born, Doyle and Marion. They lived there until they retired and moved to Camrose. Donald is still on the home farm.

In 1941 Wilma married Allan Bowie. They moved to his grandfather's farm four miles west of



Hattie and Dave Thompson on their Twenty-Fifth Wedding Anniversary, 1954. Wilma, Dayle, Donald, Marion. David is missing.

Rosalind, where they still reside. They had two sons, Grant, the oldest married Judy Vos and lives on a farm a mile from home. He drives heavy machinery for Hauser Construction; they have two children, Cindy and Todd.

Roger married Laurie Whiting; lives on the home farm and farms with his Dad. They have two children, Patti and Jim.

Some fond memories while growing up in the Spruce Coulee district were — “The occasional Friday night dance at the school house with music supplied by anyone who played an instrument. Usually Bob Holladay with the accordion, Leon Endres with his sax, Henry Henrickson with the fid-



Grant, Roger, Alan, and Wilma Bowie.

dle.” Saturday Night house parties, where the older people played cards, and the young ones danced; played games — maybe Post Office in the dark corners! The Sunday ball games, held on Falkners land, where Spruce Coulee and the Hard Pan Hicks battled it out.

Another highlight was going to Donalda Saturday nights where Gladys Skogstad and myself had our first bottle of pop. Some not so fond memories were — “Trudging to school through knee high drifts in 20 degrees below weather — to arrive at school to find the teacher wasn’t there and the fire was out. Then standing around the balky heater all day, trying to warm your feet.”

Also getting cows every night after school. Everyone pastured the cattle on the roads and you never knew which way they’d gone. The fond memories far outnumbered the others, and we still look back on the years spent there as some of the best years of our lives.

Fraser Beebe

Mrs. Marion Beebe taught school in Spruce Coulee during the 1949 to 1951 school terms. She lived in the teacherage with her two pre-school children — Jean and Fraser. Paul worked in the Forestburg area and joined the family on weekends.

About ten years later, Paul acquired three quarters of land in the Spruce Coulee district from Alfred Hestness. He farmed this land, along with this home land, southwest of Forestburg, near the Diplomat Coal Mine.

In 1968 and again in 1973, Paul’s son Fraser, acquired land from Hillabys and in 1973, Fraser moved to the Spruce Coulee district to live on the Bob Hillaby place N.E. 33-41-17.

In 1974, Fraser married Barbara Maheu, a Forestburg school teacher, who was formerly of Calgary. Barbara is presently teaching at Daysland.

Eugene Clouton

Eugene Clouton, wife Alta, and seven children, Albertine, Harriet, Wilfred, Robert, Bertha, Harry, and Louise came to Spruce Coulee from the Rutherford district, 11 miles west of Bashaw.

They lived on the Ells Whitehorn place, the children attending Spruce Coulee school. They later moved to the Willow Park district on the Averill homestead, in the old Wessington Post Office building. Another son was born while in the Donalda area. Albertine Clouton cut Art Walker’s crop with a horse binder in the fall of 1934, after he was injured in a run

away, she later married Harry Skogstad and moved to the United States.

Mr. and Mrs. Clouton had a farm auction sale and moved to British Columbia.

Samuel Dickey

In 1903 Samuel Dickey came from Wyoming to try ranching in Alberta. He arrived in Lacombe in March 1903, and walked from there to locate a suitable ranch. He came at last to the Ellsworth Whitehorn and Louis Fischer Ranch in the Meeting Creek Valley eight miles east of Donalda where they had bought squatters rights from some half breeds in 1902. Samuel Dickey purchased these rights from them and also homesteaded the S.E. 30-41-17-w4.



Originally Whitehorn and Fischer log House. Built by Metis squatters. On the Sam Dickey homestead.

The family came to join him later that year, his wife Emma and their three sons, Roy, Miles (Mike) and Lee and their daughters Mattie, Clara and Mabel.

In 1903 Samuel built a two room log house for his family which still stands, with the addition of a large room built in 1916. Samuel was a great baseball fan and at one time was captain of the Wessington Ball Team.

Mattie, the eldest, married Dan Blaney and lives in Wyoming. They had five boys and two girls.

Roy married Maude Brown and they had a family of two boys. After his wife Maude passed away, he moved to Minnesota.

Miles (Mike) remained with his father and later started a ranch of his own four miles north of his father's ranch. Mike and his wife Evelyn (Blackmore) and sons Vern and Miles lived there until the late thirties when they sold out and moved to Chilli-



Samuel Dickey with daughter Clara standing in front of the kitchen section of their home. The other part of the house was built in 1904 of logs and sided when the new addition was added in 1914. The house still stands in good repair.

wack. Mike and his two sons went into the electric wiring business.

Lee Dickey married Nettie Halseth and they had two children, Bernice and Bobby. Lee was killed in a Mine Shaft cave-in about three miles down the valley south east of Donalda. His widow Nettie lived in Donalda village until the children were grown and then they moved to Vancouver, British Columbia.

Clara married Conrad Loney and after living a year or more on the old Dickey Ranch, moved to Ferndale, Washington, later Bellingham, Washington. They had four sons.

Mabel married Otto Paulson and lived on the Paulson homestead for a few years before moving to the old Dickey Farmstead. Here they lived for forty-nine years. They had two children, a daughter Alleen and a son Dickey who died two days after his birth. Otto and Mabel are presently living in the Village of Donalda, and Otto still continues to farm. Alleen married Herb Awe and they have one daughter, Maureen. They live on a farm six miles south of Donalda.

Oscar Folven

Oscar Folven came from Norway to America in 1912, living in Minnesota for four years. In 1916, he went to Saskatchewan, Canada, then to Alberta in 1920, working for a while on the railroad between Carbon and Drumheller, returning again to Saskatchewan.

In 1926, he came to the Donalda district, to an acquaintance from Minnesota, Dan Rake.

He farmed for 1 year in the Norbo district, then moved east of Donalda on the E $\frac{1}{2}$ -11-42-18, where he farmed for 37 years.

In the spring of 1964 he had an auction sale and moved to Stettler, now residing in the nursing home.

The Lars E. Hagen Family

Lars and Aase Hagen, with their 2 sons, Ellef and George came to what was then the North West Territories, but now Alberta in 1903 from Pollock, South Dakota.

There were several families came together via train with all their belongings to Wetaskawin, there they stored some of their belongings, then travelled via wagons, some settling in the Edberg and Norbo districts. Mr. Hagen and several others settled in the Spruce Coulee district, east of Donalda.

Here they filed on a homestead, broke up the sod and seeded it to grain.

In 1905, another son was born (Melvin), but he only lived a short time. In 1906 twins were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hagen, a daughter, Agnes and a son, Conrad. But at the age of 3 months, Conrad died. In 1909, another son was born, he was also named Conrad. Then in 1912, another daughter, Martha was born.



Lars and Mina Hagen Wedding. Second marriage for Lars.

She was a tiny infant, only a month or six weeks old, when the house caught fire and burned down, but she was saved by her Grandmother. The bedding where she was asleep was already on fire when she was rescued. A large new house and barn was built the following two years. Those buildings are still there on the land which now belongs to Randolph and Palmer Rasmussen. Mrs. Hagen passed away shortly after the new house was built. But her sister and family moved in and helped take care of the family for the time being. This was Mr. and Mrs. Lauritz Peterson. Mr. Hagen served on the school board for several years, also helped build the Spruce Coulee

school, which is now a community center. He also did a lot of custom sod breaking and threshing, and had a saw mill in which he did custom lumber sawing. In 1921-1922, the Hagens moved to Ferndale, Washington.

Mr. Hagen married a girl from Norway (Melinda Olsen) in 1914 or 1915. By this time Ellef and George were both on their own — Ellef farming and George working for wages.

Ellef and George, Conrad and Martha have now all passed away.

Pete Heape

Pete Heape, from the Southern States, homesteaded on N.E. 28-41-17, where his log cabin still stands. He discovered coal in the banks on his place, and from previous experience, knew the value of it, promoting its use among the settlers. He derived some income from this, and worked for local farmers.

A talented man, he is also remembered for the way he trained his remarkable poodle, and the songs he composed and sang.

He rode horseback and led a pack horse; one black, and one white. That was how he left in 1928, riding "Pearl" and leading "Bolshevic".

Lawrence and Estella Helfer

by Estella Helfer

Lawrence and Estella Helfer moved from the Oyen, Alberta area to the Willow Park District of Donalda in November of 1945. They rented the Cyril Bernard farm. They also bought other land that was for sale. A son, Dennis was born in January 1946. They lived on the Bernard farm for eight years, farming it and their own land, upgrading machinery and farming practices as they changed.

In June of 1953, a daughter Lois was born. In 1954 they built a new home across the road from the Bernard farm and in January 1955 they moved into it. The Bernard farm was sold to Earl Stenson in April 1955. The Helfers then bought the Lewis Halseth, Hofflin farms and a quarter section from Fribergs to enlarge their farm. The Hofflin farm had a large barn on it. This barn was moved to its present location on the Helfer farm. It was an exciting day as the large barn was moved up the winding steep hill.

The Willow Park School was closed when Dennis was of age to start. He went to Spruce Coulee, and had to meet the bus at the bottom of the big hill as they would not send a bus up the hill. There were children from the mines that went on the bus from there. He went to Spruce Coulee for four years. Spruce Coulee was then closed and the children were



Lawrence and Estella Helfer, 1975.

bussed to Donalda. Later the bus was allowed to come up the hill and wait for us to meet it there. As time went on the bus came to the farm. This was a relief as it was a job to plan to meet the bus at night and morning, especially when it was cold. At night he would often walk part of the way home. Dennis' first teacher was Mrs. Arkinstall at Spruce Coulee.

When Lois started school she went to Donalda and her first teacher was Miss Margaret Lawson.

In November 1968, Dennis married Elaine Norman and they took up residence in a new home built on the farm. They have three girls; Tammy, Tricia and Trena. Their little home became too small so in March 1976 we traded houses.

In May 1974, Lois married Wayne Uniat of Fort Saskatchewan. Lois and Wayne now live at St. Albert. Lois is a Public Health Nurse in Edmonton, and Wayne works for Alberta Government Telephone overseeing computers.

Dennis and his dad are still farming together. Lawrence is taking it a little easier, travelling south for the winter.

Dennis now rents the farm his Mother and Dad rented when they moved to the Donalda area, besides farming the land we own. It is a family operation. Aeroplanes, larger machinery and chemicals make it possible to farm more acres without as much manpower.

Jesse Helfer

Jesse C. Helfer moved from the Oyen district to the Cyril Bernard Farm east of Donalda, in November, 1937. He acquired land of his own, besides renting other farms. He farmed until 1945, then sold

out and moved to Calgary. The land is now owned by Lawrence and Estella Helfer. Jesse is now retired at Castlegar, B.C.

The Hestness Story

The Hestness family came from Willow Park to Spruce Coulee in 1917, buying the Murphey homestead N.E. 34-41-17-w4. Ella was already married, Helga married Nel Aspedokken in 1919. The father, Bernt passed away in 1930 and son Alfred continued to farm. The mother was very fond of animals. She was a real lady, remembered for her tall "bee-hive" hairdos. She passed away in 1940.



Murphey Cabin on the Hestness farm. Eddie Hestness on the left.



Alfred and Eddie Hestness making charcoal for blacksmithing.

Alfred married Mabel Halseth, a gardener, good cook, housekeeper and seamstress. She crocheted and quilted and was an active member of Spruce Coulee Ladies Aid. She passed away following several strokes, after only ten years of marriage.

Alfred and Eddie continued to farm and batch, at times a lonely life.

Alfred passed away in 1966. Eddy held a farm auction, but remained on the farm until 1974, when he moved to the town of Donalda.

Bob and Deanie Hillaby

Bob Hillaby and Deanie Magee were raised on neighboring farms about ten miles south of Ohaton, attending the Albury school for a number of years. They were married in 1938 by Rev. Kerr in the United Church Manse in Camrose, Alberta. They moved to a farm south and east of Donalda into a huge old house of eleven rooms, none of which were actually finished. They used only three rooms to make their home. This house was built by Tom Loney in 1918 and in 1938 was owned by Bob's father, William Hillaby. The house was so cold in winter that the water pail froze over at night. Two little girls had been added to the family and often had to be taken into bed with their parents in order to keep warm.



Bob and Deanie Hillaby 40th Anniversary 1978. Daughters: Eleanor and Marilyn and families.

Deanie remembers at threshing time, a crew of ten or twelve men would move in, fill several upstairs rooms with straw and spread out their bed rolls. They stayed until the threshing was done, rain or shine. Sometimes, depending on the weather, harvest would last from ten days to two weeks. Then of course the straw had to be removed from the rooms upstairs.

As mentioned above two daughters were born while they lived in this big house. Marilyn, the older girl, started arriving about three weeks early. Means

of transportation at that time were not like today. In the middle of a cold night in February Bob's brother Ron went out and caught an old horse that luckily was hanging around the yard. So with this one horse they managed to pull the little Willis truck around the yard till they got it started. Then off to Camrose. Several hours and one flat tire later they arrived at the hospital, still in plenty of time. About thirteen months later Eleanor was born. Both girls started school at Willow Park School, and had to be taken by car in summer and by horse and sleigh in winter as it was a distance of about three miles. Their teacher was Miss Pat Williams (now Mrs. Max Wood).

In 1948 Bob and Deanie tore down the big house, salvaged as much of the lumber as possible to build their new home in the Spruce Coulee district, where they bought a half section of land from Bob's dad. This was the year of the big flood, washing out many bridges. The bridge on Meeting Creek between the two places was one of them making it difficult to transfer the lumber for the new house. Also because of the heavy rains and with the house being torn down around them, Bob had to drill holes in the floor of their living quarters to let the water run through to the basement. They then lived in the new garage until November of that year when their new home was completed.

The Hillabys were now only about a quarter of a mile from school. Marilyn in grade three and Eleanor in grade two with Mrs. Pasula as their teacher. Spruce Coulee school closed in about 1955-56 and the children were all bussed to Donalda. Eleanor took her grade twelve in Red Deer, and Marilyn took one semester there. As there were other students going, parents took turns taking them to Stettler each Sunday night to catch the bus to Red Deer, then picking them up on Friday evening. The girls stayed in dorms during the week. When Marilyn and Eleanor were attending high school in Donalda they sang in the United Church Choir.

Marilyn is now (1979) Mrs. Cooper with two daughters (Shelley and Shauna). She is chief draftsman for Edmonton Regional Planning Commission. Eleanor is Mrs. McMartin, Assistant Manager, Radiology Services (Education) at the University Hospital in Edmonton. She has one step-daughter, Sherry. A stepson, Michael, passed away in 1977.

Bob and Deanie Hillaby farmed in the Spruce Coulee district, raising polled Hereford cattle until 1973 when they sold out and moved to Camrose, Alberta. Bob worked for Camrose Implements until 1979 when he retired due to ill health. They celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary in April, 1978 in the Heather Brae Hall where they had held

their wedding dance (in the old log hall) forty years before.

Deanie was a member of the Spruce Coulee Ladies Aid and both were active members of the Community Club. Now Deanie is a member of the "Homestead", a home craft store in Camrose, putting in many hours of volunteer work.

Bob and Deanie are now at home to their many friends at 6303-43A ave. in Camrose, Alberta. (1979).

Ron Hillaby

Ron Hillaby married Iona Anderson in June 1944. At that time Ron was in the army being stationed at Calgary. Iona stayed at Olaf Queseths, (who came from the Willow Park district), people from around home. Ron was farming with his brother Bob on the land known as the Hillaby Section. Ron was granted leave for spring and harvest work at which time Ron and Iona would stay with Bob and Deanie.

In September 1945, Ron went to Calgary for his discharge from the army. They bought a house of their own and moved it into the Hillaby land where they lived until they moved to the Spruce Coulee district in 1946.

To this union a daughter Merle and two sons, Daryl and Harvey were born. They lived there until 1966 when due to heart trouble, Ron had to retire from farming and they moved to Stettler. Ron worked for Nicoll Flooring until he passed away in December of 1976.



Ron, Harvey, Merle, Iona, and Daryl Hillaby.

In 1964, Merle married Harry Reynolds of Erskine. They had three sons, Darcy, Bob and Mark (deceased).

Daryl married Susan Farlane and they have two sons, Gary and Brent and reside near Okotoks, Alberta.

Harvey married Vivian Gohl, they have a son Greg and reside in Calgary.

Donalda Hutterite Colony

The Donalda Colony was founded in 1976 when the Red Willow Hutterites purchased the Dale Holladay and Marcel Blouin farms. The building site is on land which Dale bought from Gordon Norman, formerly Mike Dickey's place. Building progressed rapidly until August 1978, when the Red Willow Colony split, half of them, the Jake and Sam Hofer families settling here. Building has continued through the past year, improvements being made, as well as brushing and breaking new land. It should be mentioned that all hardware for building, as well as fuel, are purchased locally. Now there is a lumber yard to supply us as well.

Persecuted for their religious beliefs, the Hutterites fled from Moravia (Austria) to Russia in the 1700's. All went well, but they could see the military building up. They emigrated from Russia in the 1870's to the Dakotas, U.S.A., from there to Montana in the 1890's. They immigrated to Canada in 1919 to Stahlville (Rockyford), the Hofers and the Stahls coming to Red Willow in 1949.

They are happy with the neighborliness shown them here.

There are 65 persons presently residing on the Donalda Colony.

Harvey Iverson

The Iverson Family, Harvey and Eileen and sons Laurie, Shannon, and Kelly moved to Brownfield in 1959 and there farmed for 13 years until the spring of 1972.

They then moved to Donalda, buying the Earl Stenson farm, formerly Cyril Bernard's place, living there for 6 years. Eileen was a member of the Spruce Coulee Ladies' Aid, and the family joined the community club, Harvey being president of the club at the time they sold out and retired to White Sands, Buffalo Lake. Sons Shannon and Kelly also reside there. Laurie, married, now resides in the town of Donalda.

Willie Jones

My father, William Jackson Jones, had his mine at Ferry Point in 1924. I, Willie Jones, worked with

him, hoisting coal when I was fourteen years old, helping my brother Johnny. Johnny married, moved to Wetaskiwin, later joining the army.

I went to Sawyerville school. The churches in Bawlf and Rosalind were Catholic, Lutheran and United.

Our homes were shacks, some made of logs and other boards. There were no gardens at the mines, too many rocks and hills. We ate meat, potatoes and gravy and home-made bread, bought milk and butter from the farmers.

Our neighbors were Deardoffs, Sweeneys, Bowies, Sawyers, Cards and Nichols. The doctor in Bawlf was Dr. Carmichael. For entertainment in the evening my father and I played music, father the fiddle and I played the guitar and mouth organ.

Later we moved to a mine six miles south of Rosalind. Our neighbors were Wislas, Shaurettes, Fontains, Anonsons, Blouins and Watkins. This was around 1940. I started courting Lorette Blouin. Lorette and I provided entertainment at alternate houses every Saturday by playing music and dancing. We played cards, skied, coasted on sleighs and skated on the sloughs. Our clothes were plain home-made shirts and bib overalls.

In those courting days I once drove through Blouins gate. Imagine my surprise when I turned to go back to the car and found it had rolled down the hill, ending up among the trees, and I had to get Blouins to pull me out.

We got married in 1944, while still at the Rosalind mine. Marcel and Anne came to visit us from the home-place on the stone-boat. We then moved to Forestburg where we had a mine. There we had some coal stripped and also had some coal cutters. Things were better, but then Diplomat came — that fixed us.

In 1948 we moved to Spruce Coulee and took over the Anonson mine, near Otto Paulson. Hjalmer Anonson, Art Hofling and Rod McDonald worked for us. Art lives in Edmonton, and both Hjalmer and Rod have passed away.

By this time we had two children, David and Rose, who went to school at Spruce Coulee and later at Ibsen. The coal at this mine was a "low seam": we sold it for \$2.50 per ton and gave the slack away. The mines always closed on Saturday afternoon and everyone would go to town. One Saturday night, also Halloween, we stopped at the garage before going home. Lorette and Ruth were going out back. It was dark and they couldn't see so they were walking arm in arm, when all of a sudden Lorette dropped in a hole — someone had upset the toilet.

In 1950 we moved on to Dave Anderson's place and put in a mine — but it was no good, and we sold

very little coal. We had two more children — Jack and Ida. Lute and Jesse Ramstead lived on top of the hill then, and Buckles lived around the bend, about two miles away. I remember one time I had to get groceries. There was a lot of snow, and I couldn't get out with the car. Since I was going with Buckles, I walked to meet them. While I was gone a lot more snow fell, and I was walking in snow almost to my hips. When Lorette came to meet me to help carry the groceries, we couldn't leave them for a minute as the coyotes were howling close and they would have got everything.

That spring, my mother, Myrtle Jones passed away. (1950) My father passed away in 1956.

In 1955 we moved to Edmonton. I got a job at Oliver Mental Institute, now called Alberta Hospital. I worked there 21 years as washerman, am now retired.

Our children are all married with children of their own. David lives in Swan Hills, Rose and Ida in Edmonton, and Jack in Stony Plain.

Some things we forget. It seems we moved a heck of a lot more times but these were the main moves.

Petter Lindgren

by Austin Lindgren

Petter and Anna and children — Henning, Austin (Osten), Hillevi and Walter arrived in Donalda's Spruce Coulee District in the summer of 1916.

The untimely death of mother Anna happened in 1920. Father left Donalda in 1921 for British Columbia. Henning and I (Austin) left to join our father in 1923. Hillevi and Walter left the same year to reside in Edmonton. I am going to relate to the best of my ability the story in brief form of the years we spent in the Donalda district.



At Norman reunion — 1976 — Sixten and Marge Norman, Eunice and Austin (Osten) Lindgren, and Albert Norman. Sixten and Austin are cousins.

Mother's sister, Aunt Freida, married Oscar Norman during the time when my father was trying to homestead in Saskatchewan, 28 miles east of Prince Albert. It was a hard, hopeless life there with only a cow, bull calf, a few chickens and a pig. The prospect of accumulating enough where-with-all to farm seemed futile so through correspondence with Aunt Freida and Uncle Oscar it was decided to leave the homestead and go to Donalda to stay with them. My father, a carpenter by trade, never really wanted to be a farmer. It wasn't his cup of tea. He built a barn for a neighbor, Mr. Banta, and a house for Uncle Oscar.

The double family life went on harmoniously for a year and a half, us kids going to school in Spruce Coulee. I stayed much of the time with Uncle Oscar's brother Gust and wife Martha and their first born Albert. Alma was born later while I was there. As time went on a move from Uncle Oscars to Fred Normans homestead was arranged as Fred had acquired Loney's farm. This was in the fall prior to the Spanish Influenza Epidemic of which Aunt Freida and Uncle Oscar's only daughter died, a very sad thing.

We lived on this farm and raised a few cattle and horses.

Now we were going to school in Donalda. My father driving the school van, until Mother (Anna) died in the winter of 1919-1920. This was a great tragedy for us kids and Dad was at a loss as to what to do. Hillevi and Walter were taken in by Aunt Freida and Uncle Oscar right away. Henning and I were boarded out at Seymours, our next door neighbours for a short time. Eventually, I was back at Gust Normans, going to school at Spruce Coulee again. Father sold what stock he had raised, and the implements, mower, wagon, hay rack, etc. and set out on his own, eventually ending on the west coast of British Columbia.

When I was of high school age, arrangements were made for me to stay with Chris Henriksons and I took my first year of high school in Donalda. Many heartfelt thanks to all those wonderful people; especially the Norman's. You would have to travel far around the globe to find people with such love and compassion and consideration for people less fortunate.

The summer of 1923 Henning and I left to join my father in Anyox, British Columbia, a mining and smelting town. Hillevi and Walter moved to Edmonton, later moving to eastern Canada where my father was residing. He married again and had a daughter, my half-sister, Hulda. This was before World War II. When Hulda was of age, she married and had two children, Paul and Linda. Hulda died suddenly of heart failure when on a camping trip with the family.

This happened when the children were teenagers and the shock and sadness was similar to mine when mother passed away.

Hillevi married in Windsor, Ontario, had one daughter, Ann Louise, who married and had three children, Greg, Susanne and Johnathan.

Henning and I stayed in Anyox until the company folded in 1935. I got married there in 1931. Eunice and I were blessed with a son, Philip in 1933. In 1934 we had a daughter Marilyn. Tragedy was our lot, and sadness when our daughter passed away at five months.

Today there are three of us living, Austen, Hillevi and Walter. Walter married and had three children, Myrka, Louise and Wally. Henning never married. He passed away at the age of sixty-four in St. Pauls Hospital in Vancouver after an operation for blocked blood vessels. Father died in Windsor, Ontario where he had lived with my sister in his later years. He was 93 years old.

The Social life around Spruce Coulee had it's advantages and most happy moments. As kids it wasn't all chores and no play. Picnics and swimming, ball games, picking chokecherries and saskatoons in the summer. In winter, it was skating and skiing — weather permitting. Winter time is noted for dance and box socials which we all participated in. I remember a dance we had at Fred Normans' house; it had a maple wood floor and was wonderful for dancing. My father would play the mouth organ to the wee hours. I remember my mother loved to dance the Swedish Polkas and schottisches. Everybody had a good time dancing, followed by food and coffee. After hitching up the horses to the sleigh us kids snuggling up in the blankets and straw as we headed home.

The Christmas concerts were an event the youngsters of Spruce Coulee took part in. Mr. Robins, the school teacher played the violin and led us in singing carols. A near calamity when Gilbert Haugejorden played Santa Clause and his beard fell off but was hastily replaced. When some special event took place in Donalda, like Chautauqua we would go; to delight in seeing magicians and other performers. To my mind, going to Donalda Fair in the fall was something to look forward to. The horse races, rodeo and carnival lingered in our minds long after.

Winfield Logan

Win Logan came from Kansas to Alberta in 1905 to homestead on S.W. 36-41-18. His invalid wife came later. They had lost a boy and a girl — it is



Mr. Logan with neighbor's children — 1935 — Fern, Viola, Mildred Van, Ruth, Mr. Logan, Esther, Luella, Astrid, Elmer, Evelyn, Verner, Evert, Glenn Sikstrom, Marvin and Leo.

generally believed that one child passed away on the long journey here. The Logans had no other children.

A butcher by trade, he was often called on to help the neighbors butcher. He used to relate how he had witnessed the huge drives of longhorn cattle from Texas to Kansas.

Mr. Logan rented out his farm for many years to enable him to care for his wife, whom he treated very kindly. They were a common sight on the road in their buggy going to visit the neighbors.

Katie Logan passed away in April 1933. Being lonely and fond of children, he organized "picnics" and invited neighbor children. He did this several summers, probably not many, but they were memorable occasions. The main treat was a whole dollars worth of wieners, which filled a good size pot.

In later years, he made his home for some time with the Fred Norman family.

Win Logan passed away in December, 1944. He and his wife are buried in the Spruce Coulee Cemetery.

Albert Miner

Albert and Esther Miner came with their family, Jim, Anne, Denzil, Charles and Lawrence, from Picardville in 1939. They settled on N.E. 31-41-17, the Fred Norman quarter in Spruce Coulee, and Albert and Mr. Marshall operated the Heisz mine. (Years before Albert had homesteaded between Centennial and Norbo). The school children attended Spruce Coulee and two more sons, Frank and Roy, were added to the family. In 1942 the Miners moved to Rosalind, where another daughter, Mina was born to them. From the Rosalind-Kelsey area they went to



On the farm at Mayerthorpe: Esther Miner, Marta Norman, Albert Miner, and Leo Norman.

a farm at Mayerthorpe. Some of the boys still live and farm there, raising families. Anne married Oliver Kapler and lives in Edmonton, Mina is married, living on a farm near Tofield, Denzil lost his life in a logging mishap in 1976, Albert has passed away and Esther (who is a sister to Clara Block), resides at the Pleasant View Lodge in Mayerthorpe.

Rod McDonald

Rod and Ruth and three children, Judy, Joan and Bill came to Donalda on November 11, 1950 on a very cold and stormy day. Jim was born in May of 1951.

Rod worked in a coal mine for Bill Jones for the next three winters and worked for the Hillaby brothers during the summer.

They lived on the Herb Whitehorn farm and worked for him one year. Then they moved to the Science Mound district and worked for Gene Vallet for two and one-half years. In the spring of 1956 they started farming on their own on the old Seymour farm. In the spring of 1963 they moved to British Columbia where Rod passed away in 1975.

Judy (Swaren) and family still live at Donalda. Joan (O'Brian) and family are at Sorrento, British Columbia on their dairy farm. Bill and Jim are both married and are both in the trucking business in the Salmon Arm district. Ruth lives at Tappen, British Columbia.

The Mueller Story

Herbert and Gerda Mueller left their native Germany, June, 1961 bound for Canada. A C.P.R. Agency for farm workers placed them at the P. Hagens at Donalda. Herb worked there for two and



Spring flood at Mueller farm 1974.

one-half years and Gerda took employment at Bethany Home in Camrose for three years.

In 1963 they bought the old Geo. Anderson place from Bob Lee — S.W. 30-41-17-W4 on the Meeting Creek and started farming on their own.

They have three sons — Norbert born in 1962, Michael in 1964 and Claus in 1970.

Every few years a big spring run-off tries to flood the Mueller place out, but their love of the valley has not diminished.

George and Delores Nelson

George and Del were married in December, 1958, coming to Spruce Coulee in the spring of 1959 to rent and live on his father's (Andrew) farm.

They were active members of the Spruce Coulee Community Club and Del a member of the Ladies' Aid. Six children were born while they resided here: Lori, Joanne, Rhonda, Peter, Andrea, and Jennifer, the older ones attending school in Donalda. Del's mother Marjorie, joined them here and was a part of our community for some time.

They left here in 1971, to move across the river on the Calon place. From there they bought a farm north of Ashmont; St. Lina being their mailing address.

The children attend school at Ashmont, where George and Del were caretakers for a time, and Del is librarian.

Lori is married to Owen Martin and has two girls.

Gottfrid Norman Family

Gottfrid Norman — born in July, 1897 and came to the Spruce Coulee area near Donalda in 1903, with his parents, Ole and Marie Norman, from Sweden.

May Larson — born in February, 1906, and came with her family to the Spruce Coulee district with her parents, Anna and Nels Larson, from Pollock, South Dakota, in 1916.



Lori (Nelson) and Owen Martin, 1978.

They were married in July, 1923. Gottfrid had purchased his N.E. ¼ 25-17-41 in 1917 from H. Dixon of Toronto, Ontario. He went into the armed forces training during World War I, returning home shortly before it ended due to a medical problem.

May attended school in Spruce Coulee, after they arrived here — enjoying her days there — quick to take part in all activities, and a great help with her



Gottfried Norman family — 1920's.



May at Norman Reunion, 1976.

younger brothers and sisters. Later, she worked at the mine for Mrs. Calvin — helping to cook for the coal miners and haulers. She also helped out Chris Henrikson and other farm homes where there were new babies and small children.

They lived in Gust Norman's homestead home, and at Ole Norman's in the small home there, until they had buildings erected on their own farm.

Elmer Gottfrid — their son, was born May, 1924. In December of 1927, Luella Kathleen came to join the family. They lived on their farm and Elmer started school in Spruce Coulee. Due to the distance, and to the fact that Elmer should be going into Donald, Gottfrid applied for, and started to drive the horse drawn school van. Being at the end of the route, he was able to pick up all the other children on the way into Donald.

In 1935, another daughter, Rita Mae, was born.

In the fall of 1936, they had an auction, and moved to Chiliwack, B.C. where they farmed a short while, later going to Port Coquitlam. Here they had a chicken ranch and Gottfrid worked in a logging camp. The children completed their schooling here.

Gottfrid had a great love for woodwork, and made some very lovely furniture and accessories. He also enjoyed pitching horseshoes, travelling around the area, playing in tournaments, and bringing home many trophies.

Elmer joined the navy at the age of 17, and served in World War II. On his return home, he married Nora Sandvie and went deep sea fishing, the ocean waters had called him back. They have 2 children — Carol and Norman. Carol married Arlow Henshaw, had 2 children, Tammy, just married, and Rodney. All live in Saskatchewan. Norman, following his fathers interests, also does deep sea fishing. He mar-

ried Louise Esau. They have a daughter, Nicol Angelina and live at New Westminster, B.C.

Luella married Edward Philbrook, and to that union, 2 children were born — Judy and Phillip. Judy married Peter Davenport, they have 2 children, Larisa and Alfie. They have an Arts Sign and Designer business in Vernon, B.C., where they reside. Phillip married Darlene Waldon, and had a daughter, Jennifer. He is employed in a sawmill and resides in New Westminster.

Edward Philbrook died after a lengthy illness.

Luella and husband Gordon Marshall purchased a boat, to go deep sea fishing. They live at Vancouver on their boat, when not out on a run.

Rita Mae — married Melvin Harder, and has 2 children, Regan and Charlene. Rita Mae, having an interest in music, learned to play the accordion, but a knitting machine crowded her first hobby aside, and she became an ardent knitter. Regan, enjoying music too, took to the accordion as well. Rita Mae and her children live near Merrit, B.C., on an acreage, where the children can have their horses.

Gottfrid had the misfortune of being badly hurt in a logging accident, and was hospitalized for quite some time. Not being able to do strenuous work again, he went back to his wood work to occupy his time. He passed away in April, 1969, at the age of 72.

Later, their property was sold, and May retired to an apartment in Port Coquitlam, where she enjoys her hobbies, which over the years have been a great part of her life. As a girl, her mother taught her so many handicrafts, as she did all her daughters and granddaughters — knitting, crocheting, tatting, carding and spinning wool, quilting and sewing. May made very good use of them all — doing much knitting for her family when they were small, as well as sewing for them and for others. She made several lovely quilts — all quilted, and now is busy with the smaller novelty accessories and crafts.

She enjoys her Senior Citizen Club and tours, as well as the companionship of her family, when they're in from their fishing trips.

She has to-date, 6 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren that she enjoys very much. She always looks forward to visits from family and friends from the prairies.

Ole and Maria Norman

Ole and Maria Norman raised a family of seven sons, all born in Sweden. Two children, a boy and a girl, passed away in early childhood. The Normans immigrated to Alberta in 1903, Wetaskiwin being their destination; with their four youngest sons —



Ole and Maria Norman and seven sons: Albin, Johann, Oscar, Gust, Fred, Robert, and Gottfried. 1936.

Gust, Fred, Robert, and Gottfried. Albin and Oscar immigrated to the state of Washington in 1902, coming to Alberta later. John was married in Sweden and did not arrive until 1913.

Ole and Maria came to New Norway, residing on the Charlie Djuve farm. In 1905, they took out a homestead in the Spruce Coulee district, where a log dwelling was immediately erected. The family moved during the winter of 1905-1906 with barely enough snow for sledding, an open winter. This was followed in 1906-1907 by the most snow and cold on record. Ole lived here continuously until the time of his passing in 1938, at 80 years of age, at which time Maria moved to her son Gust's farm. There she lived until the fall of 1948 when she spent the winter with son Fred, moving back to Gust's home where she remained for a few short weeks before her passing in her 87th year.

As most women of her time, she was accomplished in spinning and knitting. A fine seamstress, she made her own clothes and quilted right to the last.



Maria Norman and spinning wheel.



Fun at Norman Reunion — 1976 — visiting ball team: "Alberta Wild Roses" or was it "Wild Alberta Roses"?

We grandchildren especially enjoyed her sugar cookies and her fine buns — who could forget? They were not excelled anywhere. Even in her 80's she sang for us in her soprano voice, had exceptional memory, reciting poetry at length, also long passages from the Bible. She composed several poems, some being published in Chicago, in Swedish American Tribune — a newspaper subscribed to by most folks of Swedish decent.

This pioneer couple can surely claim the largest number of descendants to carry on their family name.

Olaf Albin Norman

Born on May 27, 1878 in Sweden to Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Norman, Albin was the eldest of a family of seven sons. In his early twenties he left Sweden to come to the new land. He came first to the United States and later to Golden, British Columbia where he logged for awhile. He came to Alberta from Golden in 1903 but did not stay at that time. He went back to the United States, and was married there to Amanda Forestberg. Their first son, Ture Herbert, was born in 1905 in Preston, Washington. They



Albin Norman with brother Gust, Fred and Gottfried, 1954.

returned to Alberta and farmed northeast of Donalda (Blackmoor place) in 1907 until the fall of 1910. Their second child, Doris Eleanor, was born here March of 1910. He then bought some Canadian Pacific Railway land south of Spruce Coulee Cemetery and lived on Gus' homestead until his house was built. It was there, in 1914, that their third child, Gordon Sigfred, was born. He moved onto his land in 1916 and in 1917 their fourth child, Olaf Vergil, was born. In 1920 their fifth child, Vernon Eugene was born.

In 1937 they moved from Donalda district to Vancouver, British Columbia where he logged on the P.G. & E. and lived there for approximately two years. He then moved to Tahsis, British Columbia where he did carpentry work and later took over the millwright job at the sawmill. His wife died in 1954 of cancer.

In 1958 he moved to Haney, British Columbia and was millwright there until he retired in 1960. He remained in Haney until his passing on September 17, 1966.

John Norman Story

John Norman was born on February 18, 1883 in Umea, Sweden. On March 15, 1903, he married Ida Olivia Anderson. Ida was born on October 20, 1883 in Umea, Sweden. John and Ida had eight children:

John (Alver) deceased on July 15, 1969, buried in Meeting Creek cemetery.

Agnes, now living in Camrose, Alberta.

Aake now of Strathmore, retired.

Ragnar of Victoria, retired.

Greta of Edmonton, managing the concession at the Edmonton Ski Club.



Aake Norman with furs. His father's house in Donalda.

Sven retired farmer of Stettler.

Ina now living in Edmonton.

Violet also operating a concession in Edmonton.

John and Ida resided in Umea and Boden, Sweden with their children (except Ina and Violet)



John and Olivia Norman, with Alver and Agnes. Taken in Sweden before 1910.

until they immigrated to Canada in the summer of 1914.

After arriving in Canada they settled in the Donalda district where they farmed for several years, the children attending school in that area.

Ida, being a mid-wife, served in that capacity for many years in many communities. From there they moved to the town of Donalda, about 1928, where John was the local blacksmith and Ida still carried on with mid-wife duties in the surrounding area, also doing cooking, house cleaning and restaurant and hotel duties for fifty cents a day.

A few years later they moved to Ferintosh to operate a restaurant and Aake had the general store there for years.

John found many opportunities to work, logging in British Columbia and later retiring to Ferintosh to do some carpentry work.

John passed away on March 1, 1954 and Ida passed away on November 20, 1957 at Bethany Home in Camrose. Both are buried in the Meeting Creek Cemetery.

Oscar Norman

Oscar, third son of Ole and Maria Norman, immigrated to Washington, U.S.A. with his brother, Albin, in 1902. Oscar lost 4 fingers on his right hand in 1903 working as a logger there.

He came to Alberta to visit his parents and younger brothers, taking out a homestead on S.E. 16-42-17. Brothers Oscar, Gust, and Fred opened up a coal mine.

In 1913, Oscar was married to Freda Pederson in Stettler. They farmed in the Spruce Coulee and Cen-



Oscar and Freda Norman Wedding, 1913.

tenial districts, the boys attending these schools. Three children passed away in infancy, 2 boys and 1 girl; how heart breaking.

Oscar served as secretary on Spruce Coulee school and cemetery boards. Freda loved music, played the guitar and sang. Their last farming venture then was on the Peterson farm, near the Battle River. They had an auction and left in 1941 for B.C. Vincent and Sixten, and their parents, returned in the mid forties to farm for a while on the Grandfather's place.

Oscar, Freda, and Sixten returned to British Columbia while Vincent remained here, marrying Eileen Heisz and raising a family of four children. They farmed and milked cows in the Science Mound district, and later on the Alec Hildreth farm. But they too went to British Columbia where they remain in the cedar shake business at Sycamously.

Ernie and Alfond served in the Canadian army in World War II. Ernie and Olive have four children; Sixten and Marge, three, while Alfond remained a bachelor. Ernie also has four grandchildren.

Oscar and Freda both passed away in British Columbia and are buried there.



Freda, Alfond, Ernie, and Vincent Norman on the Homestead by the river.

Carl Gustav Norman

Fourth son of Ole and Maria Norman, Gust was born in Sweden in 1886, immigrating to Alberta, Canada with his parents and three younger brothers. He attended school in Sweden and later in New Norway, before the family moved to Spruce Coulee in the winter of 1905-1906, to settle on their homestead. He, also, took out a homestead on N.W. 30-41-17-W4.

Pete Heape, an immigrant from New Mexico, was the first one to discover the coal here, and acquaint the settlers in the use of it.

The Norman Brothers, Oscar, Gust, and Fred opened, owned, operated the first commercial coal mine on Meeting Creek, from about 1909-1915. They employed as many as seven miners, and some customers recorded are Bert and Jess Jones, Nathaniel Walker, Van Blarcom, Marganson, Hollingshead, Christians, Ed Woods, Loney, Sam Dickey, and Whitehorn.

In 1913, Gust and Fred paid a visit back to their old home in Sweden.

On April 4, 1916, Gust was united in marriage to Marta Helena Pederson in Camrose, Alberta. She had just arrived from Sweden, getting off the train at Vegreville (why Vegreville?) where she had to remain overnight by herself—a young girl. She always thought of this as a terrible place.

They settled on the homestead, where the first four children were born; Albert, Alma, Bertha, and Evert. When Evert was just a new baby, the children became ill with an epidemic of scarlet fever, which took the life of Bertha at two and a half years. The family then moved to the Battle River, on Oscar's

homestead, where Dad trapped, his dream being a muskrat ranch but it was impossible to confine them. He also captured coyote pups, hoping to raise them for their fur. It was a good idea, but they became infected with mange—the end of another dream. Back to the homestead where another daughter Esther, was born. The following spring they moved house and buildings to the present site—nearer to school and road, where they added two more rooms and a porch to the house. Four more children were born, Leo, Evelyn, Vivian and Sylvia. Sylvia being the only one born in a hospital, at Stettler. Aunt Olivia Norman (mid-wife) was in attendance for the first five, Dr. Jackson delivered Leo and Evelyn, Dr. Hodgson delivered Vivian.

Dad (we called him Papa then) had a great love for hunting, was a carpenter, but I guess farming was his occupation. In 1918, The Norman Brothers (Oscar, Fred and Gust) bought a Rumely threshing outfit. By 1930, Dad was operating a threshing run on his own until about 1942, when combines came into use. He continued farming with the help of his sons, Evert and Leo gradually taking over the operation.

The 30's? Dad supplemented the diet with wild meat. And the income by hunting, snaring, and trapping fur-bearing animals, mostly coyotes, which were a good price for that time. Many a morning he set off with his gun, and a sandwich in his pocket, arriving home after dark, having walked many miles, always with his game and his sandwich, frozen in his pocket!

Then there were the annual fall jaunts west for moose, an event eagerly looked forward to after the farming season. There were many partners on these "safaris". I believe Nels Aspedokken the most frequent one. He hunted every fall, purchasing his last hunting license at the age of 82. His most exasperating experience occurred on one of his last jaunts. He became weary so went back to the vehicle to sit it out for a while. Very soon a large buck came ambling along, looking things over. But there wasn't a thing Dad could do, he had laid his gun across the hood of the truck!

How he loved to fish! He wove his own gill nets, using a needle (shuttle) and wooden spacers to make an even mesh. Dad built a sawmill in 1938 and operated this for many years. All the sawdust was very useful to pack the ice blocks, cut from the creek or river in the spring. A 20 gallon stone crock was placed in the center, where the salt pork and other perishable foods were kept. Many folks made ice cream all summer with ice packed this way.



Gust and Marta Norman Wedding, April 4, 1916.



Gust Norman family, March, 1947.



Gust and Marta Norman Golden Wedding 1966.

None of us will forget the team of trusty mules, Nellie and Sandy.

He did his own building, however, in his retirement he turned to intricate woodwork, creating his own designs in coffee-tables, chairs, lamps, trays, ashtrays, bowls, rolling pins for “flat bread” and other items.

In his 83rd year, he won first prize and a special merit award for an inlaid table at the Edmonton Exhibition. In his younger years, Dad loved to dance.

A farm wife, especially with a large family, worked many long hours. Always helping with chores, milking cows, and feeding pigs. Scrubbing clothes on a wash board, with hard water and home made lye soap. Our mother’s ingenuity and thrift kept us well fed even during the hard times of the thirties. Wholesome meals prepared with milk and simple foods. Grot and kjok mjolk! We always had hogs to butcher. This she would can, salt down, make head cheese, and put in a brine, and Dad would smoke it with birch. It was also Dad’s job to clean and prepare the pig’s feet, a real delicacy. Wild meat was common fare, also salted and pickled herring.

Rows and rows of potatoes were planted with a potato plow, and plowed up again in the fall. Dad would plow a row. We kids and Mom would pick them in pails and dump them in the wagon box. Then the ride home in the lumber wagon, where we unloaded the potatoes into a chute placed in the cellar window.

At saskatoon time, we would make a picnic lunch, load up the cream cans and pails and spend the day picking berries. There followed the tedious chore of sorting these, and canning them on a wood stove. But how lovely in the winter time. Mama (she was called Mama when we were little) sewed our clothes,

knit mitts and socks—nothing fancy. Quilts with fillings of home carded pure wool. The catchy Swedish “ditties” she sang, and the quaint Swedish sayings, a guide for every situation. “Everything bad always had some good in it”, “Things could always be worse”, “He who saves will always have”—are some examples. Albert and Alma learned English after starting school. The next ones learned English from them and Swedish from our folks, learning both languages at once. The folks spoke Swedish, we spoke English to them and Swedish to our farfar och farmor (grandpa and grandma). Our parents gradually spoke more and more English with the advent of radio, and with television, they spoke nearly all English.

Scandinavians celebrate Christmas Eve. Traditional fare for the Swedes was rice porridge with lots of raisins, served with sugar, milk, and cream. And lutefisk! Then we would hang up our stockings. What excitement and suspense, always vowing to stay awake and see Santa Claus. We never did of course, but the first one awake in the morning would wake the rest, long before daylight. Somehow, our parents always managed something for our stockings.

In summer holidays, we always had two weeks of Parochial School. The Ladies Aid hired fine dedicated teachers. I guess the most memorable and beloved were Andrew Anderson and Irene Gabrielson.

Church in Spruce Coulee was held in the homes, mostly Nels Larsons and at the school. Mom and Dad were both confirmed in the Lutheran Church in Sweden.

In the summer of 1934, the Nels Aspedokken family and our family motored to Rocky Mountain House on a holiday. That was really something. We stopped at Sylvan Lake and at the Lacombe Experimental Farm. Dad and Nels drove almost identical Chryslers—1927 and 1928 models.

Mom joined the Spruce Coulee Ladies Aid in 1933, and was a life-time member, receiving an honorary pin in 1968. Mom had thick, auburn hair with a natural wave. There are many memories—some happy and some sad.

We had an Edison gramophone, one bright blue cylindrical record was “Nearer My God to Thee”. Alma recalls that whenever it was played in the early years, the folks would be reminded of the sinking of the Titanic, and become very sad, and discuss this terrible tragedy. This was the tune that the band played as the great ship sank. That was in 1912.

There was the time on the homestead when the folks could hear the cars in the valley. Many cars, roaring. They sensed something was wrong. Then at

night they could see the car lights. Soon someone came and told them that Lee Dickey had lost his life when a mine shaft caved in. (Lee was Mabel Paulson's brother.)

Albert recalls he and Alma when very small, one day sitting in the drill box while Dad was seeding. Round and round all day, running the grain through their fingers, with Dad standing beside them on the drill platform, (from where the horses were driven). At evening when arriving at the house, they had a new baby sister, Bertha. That was May 1st, 1921. Probably the only time the fathers were recruited to babysit!

Albert loved motors right from the time he was a little boy, making roaring sounds at play. Alma recalls another day when they were older, they played in the Model T all day long. Albert brrr-rr, and Alma a grand lady with an empty inner tube around her neck for a fur piece. When they went in the house for supper, they had another new sister, Esther.

Many years later, the young people in the family came home on a Sunday afternoon. Dad and Uncle Fred were standing in the middle of the yard talking. That seemed very strange in the summer heat. We went in the house and asked Mom and our Aunt why they were standing out there. They were laughing so merrily, they had great difficulty telling us what had happened. On their arrival, the four were standing outside visiting when Fred picked up a board, laid it across a tubfull of rainwater, talking all the while. As he turned around to sit down, Albertina reached down and moved the board to one side, whereupon Fred sat right down in the tub of water. He was standing with his back to the sun to dry off.

How Evert loved to climb trees, that was where you could be sure to find him. Mom took a picture once, but it only shows a dark blob. Evert also enjoyed hunting, and trapping weasles. With a keen eye for artifacts, now has a large interesting collection.

Esther had a great love for dolls and a dread of snakes and worms. Once at an "Old Timers Picnic" at Dried Meat Lake the tent caterpillars were everywhere, and Dad had to hold her the whole time. Another time, in this vicinity, perhaps Dried Meat Lake again, in a huge crowd, with Chester Seyers speaking at an Aberhart Rally, Esther got her hair tangled in the vest button of a very pompous, important-looking man!

Leo always played quietly by himself as a little boy. Mom called him a "go lul". He was terribly shy, but luckily he overcame this to serve on many boards. President of Community Club, Farmer's Union, Secretary of Mutual Telephone, Rural Elec-

trification Association and the Cemetery Club. He is also on the Seed Cleaning Plant Board and a U.F.A. committee member.

Evelyn had beautiful curly hair, one curl in the back she called a corkscrew. Then one day Mom had a large kettle of potato peelings boiling for the chickens as it was winter time. She prepared to take them out, then Leo cut his finger. Momentarily distracted, she set the pot down to bandage his finger, Evelyn in her play, fell into the pot, and was badly scalded. They rushed her to town to Dr. Jackson. We older ones came home from school to this terrible news. She came right home with her burns bandaged and lay on a cot in the front room for three months, spending her third birthday confined to her bed. Her hair was cut right off. How kind the neighbors were, helping to supply worn wheels and other white rags for bandages.

Vivian, when she was little, with her dancing feet, continually dancing for our enjoyment. It was a job to keep her in shoes, they lasted a month, so she never grew out of them! Vivian has a green thumb and loves animals.

Sylvia was a happy child, with many remembered humorous sayings. One time when a ball went through the window, she said "It's alright, it's just an old house anyway."

Albert married Dagny Henrikson, they reside in Donalda, have two children, and five grandchildren. Alma married Henry Henrikson, they now live in Kaslo, British Columbia, and have two children and four grandchildren. Evert and Leo bought the home place when Dad retired, where they still live and farm. Esther married Jim Adair, they reside near Donalda, and have eleven children and thirteen grandchildren. Evelyn married Ken Pfeiffer, they live in Stettler and have five children. Vivian married Ken Finnegan, five children were born. She later married Andy Regnier, they have one child and have two grandchildren. Sylvia married Alan Jones, they have three children and live in Medicine Hat.

The folks stayed on the farm until poor health made it necessary for Mom, crippled for years with arthritis, to take up residence in the Auxiliary Hospital in Red Deer for two years until the Nursing Home was built in Stettler. Dad suffered a paralyzing stroke in his 83rd year, recovering fairly well, but was never strong again. He remained on the farm until his 87th year when he joined Mom in Stettler at the Nursing Home. There they celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary on April 4th, 1974. Dad passed away quietly on March 6th, 1975 at the age of 88 years. Mom passed away just eleven months later, on February 5th at the age of 77 years.

The Fred Norman Family

In 1903 Ole and Maria Norman came with sons Gustav, Fred, Robert and Gottfrid from Sweden. Another son, John, remained in Sweden with his wife and family, coming to Canada in 1913. They settled in the Donalda district near the area where the other Norman brothers had established themselves on farms east of Donalda. Albin and Oscar immigrated to Washington, U.S.A. before 1903, coming to the Donalda area a few years later.

This was indeed a family of sons. Mr. and Mrs. Ole Norman had lost their only daughter at ten years of age and also one son while they still lived in Sweden. These seven sons all made their homes around Donalda and all remained in the area until 1936 when several of them moved to B.C.

Ole and Maria Norman homesteaded the S.W. 1/2 of section 6-42-17-w4. Here they lived until Grandfather Ole Norman passed away in his homestead house in 1938. Grandmother Maria Norman passed away in 1949.

It was in this same area east of Donalda that Fred

Norman and his wife Albertina homesteaded the N.W. 1/4 of section 2-42-18-w4. Fred had returned to Sweden and married Albertina Svenson. He returned to his homestead in 1913 with his wife and twin sons, Austin and Arnold. Here on the homestead Alrick, Ruth and Rueben were born.

In 1918 the family moved to the Tom Loney farm, N.E. 1/4-31-41-17-w4. In this home twin daughters, Elizabeth and Mary were born. Arne, Verner and Astrid were also born here. Mary passed away at five months of age.

The family have many fond and exciting memories of home. Here many neighbors and friends gathered often, especially on Sundays for parties and ball games.

In the spring of 1936, the Fred Norman family moved to the Paul Welch farm, four miles east of Donalda. In the winter of 1949 Dad and Mother went to Sweden for their first visit home, returning in the spring of 1950. Mother came home ill and passed away in May, 1950. Dad resided on the family farm except for the last few years which he spent in the Stettler Nursing Home, until passing away in July, 1975.

Austin married Anne Menegozzo in 1942. They lived in Drumheller where he operated a service station until his retirement. They have three sons. Donald teaches in Calgary. Bob lives in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and is on the Fire Department. He is married. Barry is attending SAIT in Calgary, finishing his electronics course. Austin and Anne have spent the last two winters in the Southern States.

Arnold married Hilda Kromm of Red Willow in 1941. Their first home was the Fred Norman home just west of the Spruce Coulee Cemetery. Here is where they lived when their daughter Beverly was a baby. A few years later they moved to their own farm a mile further west. When Beverly was three years of age her brother Deryl arrived to complete the family.

Beverly married Helmut Rompfer and they now live at Alliance with their family of two sons — Andy and Bobby — and daughter — Barbara. Deryl married Norma (Congdon) and lives on the farm he purchased from his parents. Arnold and Hilda have retired to live in Donalda.

Arnold and Austin celebrated their 65th birthday at the home of their sister, Mrs. Ruth Komishke, in May of 1977. All members of their family were present.

Alrick married Myrtle Montgomery in 1946. Most of the years were spent in the Donalda district farming, leaving in 1970 to live in Camrose. They now live in Tofield, Alberta where they with their son



Fred Norman family, 1942.



Norman Reunion — 1976 — Fred and Albertina's children.



Albert Komishke family, 1960.

Harvey and his wife, own and operate a car wash and a garage in Tofield. They have four children.

Garth married Cheryl Cooper. He is a carpenter and lives in Camrose. They have three daughters, Nadine, Terri-Lynn and Karen.

Harvey married Linda Shermak, and their children are Casey, Shawn and Corrine. Harvey is a mechanic and lives in Tofield.

Linda married Russell Hoffman and their children are Nicole and Bradley. Linda lives at Tofield.

Inez married Malcolm Miller and lives on a farm at Edberg. Their children are Cindy and Jared.

Ruth married Albert Komishke in 1936. Her husband Albert was a baker by trade in Denmark. The day he arrived in Donalda, the spring of 1927, the Donalda Post Office and Bank had burned to the ground.

Albert spent his first night at the Pete Rasmussen home and the next day went to the Ole Erickson farm to work.

During the next few years he worked at various jobs in Alberta and B.C. He finally settled on a farm east of Donalda which is known as the Winfield Logan homestead. While here, he met Ruth who became his wife on May 18, 1936. They started married life on the Melvin Tucker farm where they resided for five years. On this farm their son Ronald was born with Dr. Morley Hodgson in attendance. Their daughter Marlene also arrived while living on this farm.

In the spring of 1941, Ruth, Albert and their



Twins of the Fred Norman family: Austin and Arnold Norman. Wayne and Dale Komishke, Brenda and Brian Campbell.

family of two moved to the Barret Estate. The following year twin sons, Dale and Wayne, came to join their happy family.

In the spring of 1944 they moved to the Walter McIntyre farm on the southern outskirts of Donalda to be ready for Ronald starting school in the fall.

In the meantime, they had purchased three quarters of land, minus buildings, west of Donalda from Walter McIntyre. As soon as they got some farm buildings put together on the farm, they moved there, and this was their farm home until they sold it to Ed Imbery in 1973.

Ruth and Albert purchased Joe Tucker's house in Donalda and moved into this home that fall. On October 20, 1974, Albert passed away after a lingering illness.

During his lifetime at Donalda, Albert decorated many a wedding cake.

Ronald Komishke married Kathy Lane of Byemoor. Their children are Bradley and Audra. They returned the fall of 1979 from a three year stay at the Canadian Air Base in Lahr, Germany where they both taught school. They have resumed their teaching positions in Stettler. While in Europe they spent all their holidays touring the countries. Ruth Komishke visited them in Germany in the summer of 1977.

Marlene Komishke married Ken Murray of Stettler. They are presently living in Vernon, B.C. where Ken is employed with Okanagan Telephone and Marlene at the Bank of Nova Scotia. They have three children — Candis, Brenda and Craig.

Wayne Komishke married Holly Holt of Bashaw. They reside on the former Van Blarcom farm, east of Donalda. Their children are Eugene and Janelle.

Dale Komishke married Diane Reinbold of Erskine. They live at Stettler where Dale operates the Allendale Service. Their children are Stewart, Raeanne and Jeffrey.

Rueben remained the bachelor of this family. He spent eighteen years in B.C., most of this time at Mission where he worked in the woods. His brothers and sisters persuaded him to come back to the home farm. He now resides in his father's retirement home and assists his brother Verner with the farm work.

Elizabeth married Lester Montgomery in 1945. They made the former Don Lawson farm their home for a few years before moving on a farm of their own, east of Donalda. They purchased this farm from her father. Part of this was his homestead.

They have four children — Norman in Pennsylvania, Lavern Shaw in Edmonton, Donna Robinson in Coronation and Wade at Donalda. There are four grandchildren — Lisa and Lyle Shaw, Jimmy Montgomery and Tannis Robinson.

Arne married Alice Paulson, daughter of Henry and Gladys Paulson. They farm east of Donalda and live on the S.W. ¼ of 1-42-18. They bought this land from his father, Fred Norman. It was formerly owned by Paul Welch. They have four children.

Elaine married Dennis Helfer. They farm south-east of Donalda. They have three daughters — Tammy, Trena and Tricia.



Arne and Alice Norman and family: Diane, Elaine, Joan and Rodney.

Diane married Edward Congdon. Ed is a sheet metal mechanic and manages the Edson Branch of Grant's Heating and Air Conditioning. They have two sons — Kyle and Brent.

Joan married Lenord Blouin. Lenord works for Luscar Coal Company at Hinton, Alberta. They have two sons — Scott and Richard.

Rodney married Karen Clarke. They live on his parents' farm. Rodney works for Alberta Gas Trunk Line and also helps his dad with the farm work. They have one son, Christopher.

Verner and Pat Norman live on the former Fred Norman farm where they operate a mixed farm with Hereford cattle (Verner's choice in cattle). Spring arrives early on this farm when the white-faced calves appear in February.

Their children are Sherwin who married Jean Marshall of Erskine. They have a daughter Julie and a son David. They live at Leduc.

Daughter Sherralyn married Marty Damberger. They have one son, Graham. They moved to Donalda from Red Deer the summer of 1979.

Blaine married Lana Weir. They have a son, Nicholas. They also make Donalda their home.

Son Delmar passed away at eighteen years of age in 1975.

Colin is presently taking Power Engineering at SAIT in Calgary.

Astrid is married to Don Campbell from Drumheller. She lost her first husband, Sid Setter, in a car accident when her daughter, Sharon, was nine months old. Sharon is now married and has two children. Sharon and her husband, Ronald Wallace, live in Calgary.

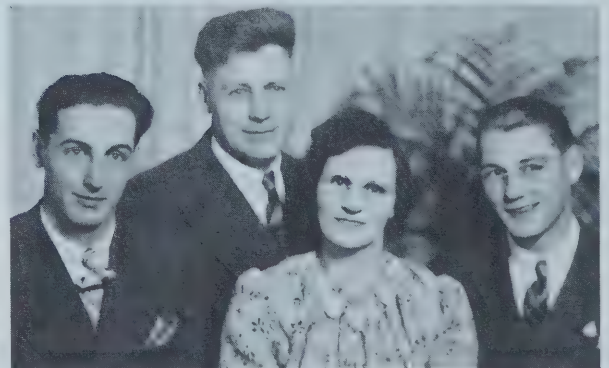
Astrid and Don have four children — Frankie, Danny, and twins, Brenda and Brian.

Robert Norman

Robert, sixth son of Ole and Maria, came to Alberta with his parents in 1903. He attended Spruce Coulee School when it opened in 1906. He joined the R.C.M.P. and was a member of that force for a time.

Robert married Elsie Russell (Tom Russell's daughter). They raised 2 sons, Raymond and Ralph, losing 2 daughters in infancy.

Robert operated a grain crushing outfit in the



Robert Norman family: Raymond, Robert, Elsie and Ralph.



Robert Norman and Nils Haugejorden, about 1920.

early days, for several years. They spent their retirement years at Falkland, B.C., Robert passing away in October 1979, at the age of 85, the last surviving member of the Ole and Maria Norman's seven sons.

Gordon Norman

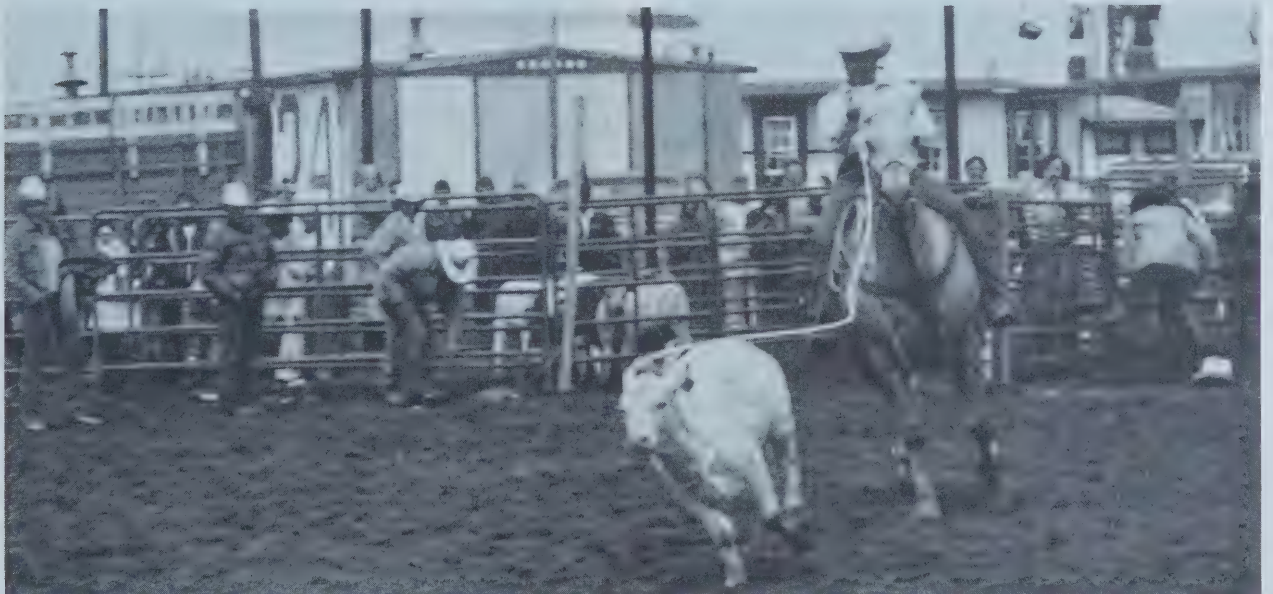
Gordon farmed his father's land in 1943 until he was married to Vera Irene Paulson on March 12, 1945.

Following their marriage, they moved onto the Mike Dickey farm, renting this land for a number of years, then, in 1955 bought the farm. Eight of their nine children were born while they resided here, Louise, Kenneth, Bernice, Dwayne, Lorraine, Neil, Marilyn, and Murray.

In July of 1969, they sold this farm to Dale Holladay (now a part of the Donalda Hutterite Colony) and bought another farm at Bonnyville, Alberta, moving there with their four younger children.



Gordon and Irene Norman family. Taken at double wedding May 10, 1975.



At age 65, Gordon Norman is still competing in the calf roping events at rodeos.

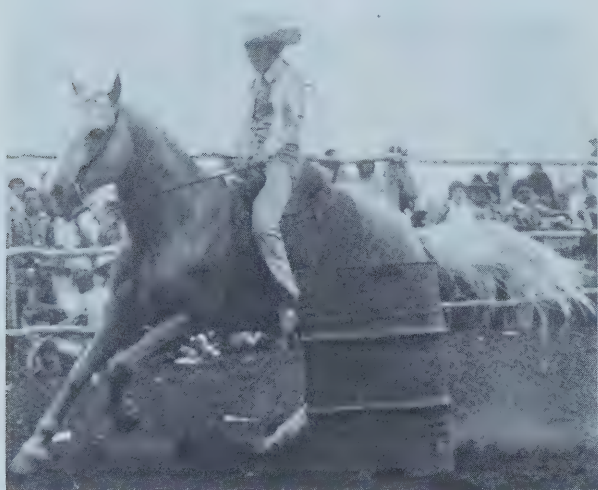
One more child, Merle, was born at Bonnyville. They are still residing there with their two younger sons.

Gordon has been a horseman since his boyhood days — once while exercising his stallion, Gordon had the misfortune of getting his nose partially bitten off. This interest in horses has passed down to his children and grandchildren. He is involved in rodeo, and participates in calf roping. Irene enjoys sewing, keeping her children and grandchildren happy for many years with articles she has made for them — western shirts, pants, jackets, etc. She is now working in a boutique in Bonnyville as a seamstress.

Roger Block

Roger Block bought the former Ray Banta land, east of Donalda, in 1956. In 1963 he moved a house in, and married Louise Norman in August, 1964. They have three children: Carol, Diane, and David.

For a few years they delivered the Rural mail in the Donalda area. Roger is now a truck driver at the Donalda Co-op Creamery.



Carol Block barrel racing at Hylo 1979.

In 1974, they started in the business of P.M.U. This is the collection of urine from pregnant mares, which is shipped weekly to Brandon, Manitoba, where hormones are extracted to be used in medicine and cosmetics.

In the summer they too, go to rodeos. Roger competes in the calf roping, Louise and Carol in the barrel racing. Diane is practising at home, hoping to become a barrel racer in the future and David, even now shows a keen interest in horses.

Roger is an assistant leader of the 4-H House Club, to which the girls belong, enjoying it very much.



Two year old David Block and his pinto pony.

Kenneth Norman

Ken married Donna Charlesworth, a nursing aide from Picture Butte, in 1970. They have three children, Patti Lynn, Dean, and Kathy Ann. For a while he worked on a pipeline, but decided that was no life for a man with a family. Since the spring of 1974, Ken has worked at the Diplomat Coal Mine near Forestburg, as a heavy equipment operator.

Ken, Donna and family reside in Donalda in the old Lutheran Church Manse. Donna takes a real



Ken Norman at the Lakeland Amateur Finals Rodeo, 1979.

interest in children, teaching Sunday School, and keeping the large house lively with neighbor children.

In the summer, the family enjoys going to rodeos, where Ken participates in the calf roping event, proving himself a capable roper — placing 5th in the amateur finals in 1979.

Bernice (Norman) Dietrich

Bernice married Allan Dietrich in 1964 and to this union 3 children were born — Brenda, Billy, and Bobby.

Allan, and his father, Art Dietrich, farmed and raised cattle together for many years, Allan taking over in 1976, when his parents moved into Forestburg.

Bernice is a good farm housewife — tending to her children and a large garden very efficiently. The children attended school in Forestburg, and are active in the 4-H Beef Club.

Dwayne Norman

Dwayne married Lillian Cameron, of Bonnyville, in 1974. They lived in Bonnyville until the summer of 1975, when they moved to Donalda, bought a house and are presently living there. Lillian is the secretary of the Donalda Co-op Creamery. Dwayne works on a farm for Rudy Jahns, helping other farmers in any spare time.



Dwayne Norman in action at the Onion Lake, Saskatchewan Rodeo 1978.

Dwayne and Lillian have two children, Rhonda and Ian.

In the summer Dwayne, Lillian and family enjoy going to rodeos. Dwayne, like his brother, is a calf roper, and has won a number of trophies in this event, the first one being Thorhild Rodeo when he was thirteen years old.

Lorraine Norman (Lychak)

Lorraine married Stephen Lychak in 1971, and they have 4 children: Shane, Karen, Lenord, and Carmen. Steve, and Lorraine, run a successful farming and livestock operation in a good mixed farming district at Derwent, Alberta.

Steve and Lorraine make periodic trips to the Diplomat Coal Mine, near Forestburg, where her brother works, for a load of stoker coal, as there are

no coal mines near their home. This also gives them a chance to visit family and friends around the Donalda area.

Neil Norman

Neil spent his young boyhood at Donalda, moving with his parents to Bonnyville in 1969. In 1975, he married Bernadette Campeau of Fort Kent, Alberta, moved to a ranch near Bonnyville, and worked there for 2½ years. For a short time, he worked on an oil rig, going back to ranch work, as he enjoyed working with animals — this showed in his handling and training of horses. Neil, too, followed the Amateur Rodeo Circuit, winning his share of trophies in the calf roping event. At one time, Neil taught a roping school near Two Hills, Alberta.

After a time, Neil left ranching to return to the oil rigs. On February 13, 1979, he lost his life in an industrial accident on the rig at Ft. McMurray, leaving his wife and two children, Lyle and Roxanne. Neil was laid to rest in the Spruce Coulee Cemetery, as he always thought of Donalda as “Home”.

His family have since moved to Forestburg.

Marilyn Norman (Campeau)

Marilyn married Fernard Campeau, of Ft. Kent, in 1975 in a double wedding celebration with Neil and Bernadette. For a short time, Fernie worked on a dairy farm, south of Bonnyville. They have two children, Brian and Sandra.

In January, 1976, they moved to Ft. McMurray where they now reside. Fernie is employed by Alberta Power Ltd. as a diesel plant operator No. 1.

Marilyn is fond of children, and helps when needed as a teachers aid.

Each year holiday time, finds Fernie and Marilyn returning to the Donalda district to visit relatives and friends.

James and Esther Adair

by Esther Adair

Jim's mother was a school teacher, her very first school being Glen Park, where she boarded with Emma and Anton Olson. Many years later, she again sojourned to teach in the Donalda area, this time at Spruce Coulee for three years. It was during a visit to his mother that Jim met his future wife, when his car got stuck in a snow drift near her father's farm. I remember it well, it was 11 o'clock at night, Mom and I were up alone, counting Nabob coupons. A loud rap at the door nearly frightened us out of our wits. There followed such a scurrying, to wake my Dad and alert my brothers. With all this commotion, the door was finally opened, by then, to an equally

frightened young man! Jim always recollects his reaction — as in the song! — “There stood her father, her mother, her sisters and her brothers, oh —”.

Jim got farm work in the area. One month at August Martins, then he went to work for Elmer Erikson, who had taken over his parents farm. Fred, the father, passed away while Jim was employed there. It was also while Jim was there that Elmer lost his fingers when his glove caught in the buzz saw, while sawing fire wood. He remained there until we



Jim and Esther, 1974.

were married in the fall on October 11, 1947. (Several years later, Jim's brother Don, married a Donald girl, our neighbor's daughter, Violet Anderson.)

Jim then got employment with Kellough gravel crushing on the Hillaby farm (Fraser Beebe). Yes, the same Kellough who has done so well in the machinery business in Stettler, was just getting started then.

We stayed over winter on the Clyde Heater farm, they going to New Mexico. Surely the forerunner of the winter migration there, in a huge home-made wooden trailer.

In the spring, we moved to our present farm, the Falkner place, purchased from Anna Robinson. The buildings were on the Isaac Smith homestead, one year later we moved them to the main road on Charles Falkner's homestead.

Times were hard, but oh!, how swiftly the years fly by.

Have always milked cows by hand, and still do. You will find a variety of animals on our farm, besides cattle, nearly always a few sheep, hogs, and have always had a saddle horse or two, also chickens, turkey geese and/or ducks and a home for stray dogs and cats.

Jim worked several years on pipeline, the kids and I doing chores, Jim loves hunting, has owned some type of gun since age 9, acquiring his first rifle at age 15. Traded a hound dog for it. As the boys grew, they joined in, too, deer every fall, and prairie chickens — fresh meat for the table. The rat season was something else; hunt 'till dark, then come home, milk cows, and skin rats.

Thankfully, I had cooking experience, growing up in a large family. Helping my mother and neighbor ladies cook for threshers — Mabel Hestness, Anna Haugejorden, Irene Fenske, and Edna Branes. They were jolly times as well as hard work! Sometimes there would be threshing hands with musical instruments, how I loved those times. Art and Lawrence Anonson, Oswald Quesseth, my brother-in-law, Henry Henrikson, with his violin. Also I worked and helped cook at various homes — Rosa Stanvick, Mrs. Henrikson.

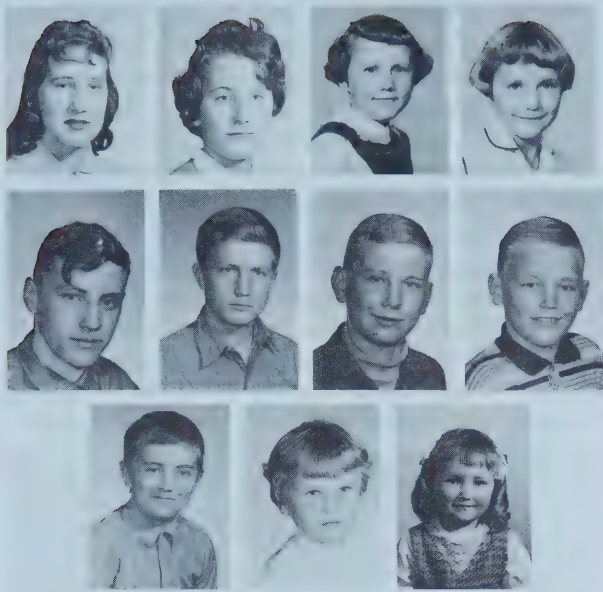
Have always had a large garden and every summer we gathered wild berries in season. The quarts and quarts of vegetables and saskatoons, all canned on a wood stove. One time, a salesman called in, I had a large kettle of saskatoons on the stove and bread in the oven on a hot, hot day. He wiped his brow, soon the perspiration was pouring — he didn't stay long! It took a lot of bread baking for a large growing family — (eight lunches at once, for a time). But the Lord was surely smiling on us, as they were a pretty healthy bunch. Oh, there were a few bad times, tonsillitis, allergies, 2 broken arms, and the time Melody made hamburger of her big toe when she caught it in the bicycle spoke.

They all went on the bus to Donald, Ray Banta driving when Carol started. Some finished their schooling here, others riding the bus to Stettler. How they hated the long bus ride, and still do. Some stuck it out to graduate, Cathy stayed in Stettler the last year, and got part time work. Corinne rode bus one year, now works part time in Stettler and stays there.

Jim and I joined and were active in the Home and School throughout its durations I joined the Ladies Aid in the mid forties, and taught Sunday School for 8 years recently.

Evert and I were confirmed in the Lutheran Church at the same time, 2 weeks before the start of World War II, and had first communion on that awful Sunday, September 3, 1939.

In every life there are highs and lows. The highs carry you over the lows, and the lows give meaning and appreciation to the highs. Dad passed away in March of 1975, then in June my cousin's boy — Delmar lost his life in an accident, followed by the passing of Uncle Fred in July. So much unhappiness.



The Adair children.

Then Mom passed away only 11 months after Dad, in 1976. A Norman family reunion was already being planned, and after months of organizing took place in July of 1976. What a grand time, we talked of nothing else for days and weeks until our lives were rudely disrupted by an explosion and fire in our home on the last day of July.

Even now I find it difficult to put into words. Mike, thrown across the room by the blast, and appendix stitches still in his side, was able to reach into the basement, get hold of his father's outstretched hand, and pull him out.

Jim was badly burned, we went as far as Lester Montgomery's, Lester rushed him to Bashaw, where ambulance took him to University Hospital in Edmonton. Frank and Lloyd Shaw saved a few items, and our budgie, but everything else was lost. So many treasured possessions, personal items, handed down from both families. We were great collectors, cream jugs, stamps, match folders, guns, Wilf's coins, and pens. The biggest loss — pictures. A whole drawerful of just the kids' school pictures. But all persons were safe. How the people rallied, family relatives, neighbors, strangers, friends of our family, and friends of friends! Furniture, clothing, bedding, food, cash, many snapshots, items of Dad's woodwork. There was a benefit pancake breakfast, with folks from many miles around. A benefit raffle — Arne Norman donated a heifer, Kneeland Bros. and Leo and Evert a hog, and our fisherman cousin, Elmer Norman frozen salmon. A shower at Spruce Coulee on my birthday, and one in Donalda, by that

community. We are forever grateful for material help and the wonderful friendship shown us.

Roger Block gave us the use of their holiday trailer until October 3rd, when we moved into our present home. Everyone helped with chores, haying, harvest, it is impossible to mention them all. The boys took time out from their jobs to assist with these tasks, and to help with the house, the girls came with help and boxes of groceries.

It wasn't all bad, Reg said, "Every meal is a picnic." Holly always wanted to camp, she got three months of it. I had a dandy garden which had to be taken care of as well as all the trips to Edmonton to visit Jim. Meanwhile, he had many kind visitors, and received 71 get-well cards. Cathy and Ward lived in the city, which was a great help. With good care and because of his "excellent health, stamina and optimism" (Doctor's word), and everyone pulling for him, Jim made a good and speedy recovery; even the anticipated grafting was not necessary.

As Mom always said, "There's good to be found, even in the bad." Reg and Carol Ann were married while we lived in the trailer. That was a happy time, I could have burst with pride as our boys, now all grown, walked up the aisle, and life does go on.

We have 11 children, 6 girls and 5 boys, and 13 grandchildren.

Carol married Tom Lyle — an electrician and co-owner of an electrical shop in Tofield. They have 2 sons. Catherine married Dave McKnight, a tailor fitter by trade, and many years in insurance; they live in Edmonton and have 2 girls. Melody married Dale Kent, a welder, they have 4 boys and live in Halkirk. Merry married John Fisher, plumber, they live on an acreage near Daysland, and have 2 boys and 1 girl. Warden, a plumber and truck driver, married Lael Astley, they have 1 girl and live in Tofield. Reg, a plumber, married Carol Ann Francis, they live in Ft. McMurray and have 1 boy. Mike has operated seismic rigs for several years, but his love and ambition is in farming. Wilf is an apprentice plumber, and operates heavy machinery, Frank has worked at mechanics, truck driving, but mostly rigs, Corinne and Holly are still in school.

Life for us has never been dull, and I know we shall never be bored or lonely.

Evelyn (Norman) Pfeiffer

One of my earliest recollections in the Spruce Coulee district was attending the Lutheran Church, where you could always count on a real fire and brimstone sermon. These were held in peoples homes, often at Larsens, later we met at the school.



Pfeiffer family L-R Jamie, Susan, Evelyn, Scott, Julie, Ken, Jennifer (seated) — her grade 12 graduation, 1979.

This is where we took most of our confirmation classes. One day I slipped out unnoticed, to walk the 2½ miles to confirmation dressed in my brother Leo's outgrown pants. Such comfort (for a tom boy), this was before girls wore slacks. Later when my mother arrived at "church" and saw me dressed in this deplorable attire she was horrified. Hadn't we always saved our best clothes for church?

We were a very close community and enjoyed picnics, and ball games. The highlight of the year was the Christmas concert.

Two things that influenced my young life was when brother Albert bought a floor model gramophone coming equipped with RCA 12" red label records, 78, RPM, of course. Later Evert bought a Hohner 12 bass accordion. It was an old relic, but in my eyes it was beautiful and every time Evert went away I'd slip upstairs and play it.

My first job earning money was helping cook for threshers at the Haugejorden farm. Just enough money was accumulated that fall to order a \$20.00 guitar from Eaton's catalogue.

Later when I left home and was training at the

Essendale Mental Hospital in B.C., I purchased my first accordion and took lessons. I was finally going to be able to read music, what a trial after playing by ear (Several teachers after that.)

One day while back in Alberta, having taken a leave of absence from the Music Centre in Vernon, B.C., my sister and her boyfriend took me on a blind date; some guy by the name of Ken Pfeiffer. I was quite taken by his brown eyes; had always said I'd marry a brown-eyed man so I could have brown-eyed children. Coming from a blue-eyed Scandinavian community, brown eyes were unique. Then I learned that he played piano and had a good singing voice. That did it. We were married on April 4, 1955, on my parents 39th anniversary.

After Ken worked 13 years with Macleods in Stettler, Edmonton, Nelson, and Olds we finally realized our dream and opened our own House of Music in Stettler in August 1967. Fortunately we had several used instruments at home, that we could supplement our meagre new stock on our shelves.

By this time we had 5 children, Julie 8, Scott 7, James 6, Jennifer 5, and Susan 1½; not a brown-eyed one in the bunch. With the help of babysitters, and the children taking responsibilities at an early age, cooking and house cleaning, Ken and I working long hours, we got the business off the ground. At that time I had 36 accordion students. I remember one time at the close of the day, when we were \$8.00 in the hole.

Through the years, the children have all worked at the store, starting at 11 years of age with a starting wage of 25¢ an hour. When they were worth more, they were paid accordingly. We now have 2 stores, several teachers and employees. God and the community have been good to us. Our children are all musicians, four have gone to further education, but still work in the stores when they can. Susan is in Grade 9 at Stettler Junior High.

Anton Lauritz Pederson Family

by Edith (Peterson) Olesen

Anton Lauritz was a true immigrant coming directly from Norway in 1906.

Leaving his wife and family in Norway, he came to Wetaskiwin and walked all the way out to the Spruce Coulee district, east of Donalda to the homestead of Lars Hagen who was married to his wife's sister, Anse.

Anton worked on the railroad at Stettler to get money enough to bring his family here. A year later he homesteaded the North East quarter of 6-42-17 east and north of Donalda. Then he sent for his wife

Marie and family; Gunda age 19, Ole 17, Carl 10, Gudrun 4 and Rachel 2 years.

Anton owned three oxen and hauled his grain to Stettler as well as doing his farm work with them. He later traded them for horses.

While living on the homestead the family grew, Lilly, Dagny, Nordahl, Edith, Arnold and Helga were born as well as another baby daughter after they moved into their new home. She passed away in her infancy and was buried in the Spruce Coulee Cemetery.

The older children attended school for Dad Winters. This was one of the first schools built in the area

coal mine in the coulee below, and would dig coal to sell in the wintertime.

Our neighbors were Dave Andersons and Ludwig Loney.

I went to school two years in Spruce Coulee with my brothers and sisters. Our teacher was Mr. Plant. We couldn't attend during the winter months as it was two and a half miles to walk across country through two coulees without a road.

In 1922 we changed schools and went to Centennial, so we could attend in the winter by driving a cutter or going horseback and we'd walk in the summertime.



Lauritz and Marie Pederson, Golden Wedding 1949.

around Donalds and was erected in 1905. It was also used as a Lutheran Church.

Gunda went to work for the Hilker family; later married Walter Hilker and had three children, Ralph, Lily and Viola. Ralph is the only surviving member of that family and resides in Stettler.

In 1915 our grandmother Gunhild Nelson came from Norway to live with us. She passed away with the flu on the evening of the day that World War I ceased. All the family became ill with the flu except Carl. Grandma's funeral was a private service held in the yard outside our home; as public gatherings were not allowed during the epidemic and she too was buried in the Spruce Coulee Cemetery.

Times were difficult and mother and dad had to work hard to support their family. They bought another farm three miles north along the Battle River Coulee where father built a new home. Father had a



Lars Hagen and Lauritz Pederson families by Pederson's house.

When I tell my children of how difficult it was to get to school they find it hard to believe and add a little more to it by saying "two and a half miles through the coulees and chased by Indians". Our teachers at Centennial were Evelyn Blackmore, Constance Loney, Eleanor Magee, Alice Moe, Medora Beckman, Mary Morgan and Sophie Knudtson.

Baking bread was a task that kept mother busy, she would bake a large batch every other day to keep us all fed, including lunches at school. A hundred pound bag of flour would only last about two weeks. She would dye the flour sacks to make clothes for the family, as well as to spin yarn to knit mitts and socks for us all. Before the yarn was spun the wool from the sheep needed washing and carding.

Our clothes were scrubbed on the wash board with her homemade soap.

In 1929 I was confirmed in the Lutheran Church in Donalds with Rev. Ostby as minister.

In 1930 father rented a farm at Rosalind, moved there and farmed until his retirement.

Father passed away in 1955 at ninety one years of age having the distinction of being born on Leap Year 1864.

Mother passed away on Christmas morning at seventy-four years of age. Both are resting in Greenview Cemetery east of Rosalind.

Gudrun married Randolph Rasmussen in 1922. They are still living in Spruce Coulee. To this union was born four girls and one boy.

Carl married Ella Orr at Rosalind, their family being two daughters.

Evalene married Lloyd Bowie, they are farming at Rosalind.

Mildred the youngest daughter, married Hubert Twitchell of Daysland. She passed away during the polio epidemic of the fifty's, leaving a small daughter.

Ole brought an English war bride (Lily Jackson) home with him to Donalda, later moving to Sylvan Lake. They have three sons.

Rachel married Henry Berquist. He passed away in 1955 and Rachel resides in Edmonton.

Lily married Elmer Lohner in 1934. He passed away in 1957. They had two children, Gordon married Betty Carrol and Helen married Jeff Strandquist.

Dagny married Alfred Lohner. He passed away in 1971, they had a family of six boys. Kenneth married Arlene Vornbrock. Elmer married Caroline Geidiman. Marvin married Clara Heck. Stanley married Peggy Candlish. Leon married Joyce and Verne is as yet living with his mother.

Nordahl married Ellen Olesen, they have three daughters, Jean (Mrs. Lorne Hamilton), Noreen (Mrs. Bernie Ehault), and Ferne (Mrs. Darryl Clement) of Donalda.

Arnold married Francis Kent, they have three sons, Lyle, Lloyd and David.

Helga married Raymond Rasmussen and has two sons Jimmy and Dennis.

Edith married Albert Olesen in 1932. They farmed near Rosalind where their six children were raised. In 1973, after having a farm sale they retired to their new home in Camrose.



Lauritz Pederson family, 1949.

The eldest daughter, Evelyn married John Steadman in 1953, and lives in the Battle Bend district east of Alliance on a farm where the Lars Hagens lived at one time. They have two daughters; Lenore married Brian Oberg and lives on a farm at Forestburg with one son. Marie married Bob Palmer and lives in Edmonton. They have one son at home, he works with his father in the oil fields.

Eileen married Orest Semchishen in 1958. Orest is a radiologist in Edmonton. They have a son Dale and two daughters Kaye and Valerie.

Phyllis married Dennis Pregoda in 1966, and they live on a farm at Rimbey, with a daughter Darla and a son Doran.

Roger married Sharon King in 1969. They have a daughter Sandra and a son Steven. They live at Rosalind where Roger has the Esso Oil Station.

Linda married Doug Roth in 1970 and they farm at Heisler, have a son Roy and daughter Stacey.

Bonnie married Dennis Macleod and live at Ohaton. Dennis is a mechanic in the Datsun Garage in Camrose, they have a daughter Heather.

Randolph Rasmussen

Randolph came with his parents from Pollock, South Dakota, in the year 1900 to Ponoka by rail, where they unloaded their livestock and machinery. The family waited there while the father Ole Rasmussen went in search of a homestead that he located northwest of Edberg.

Randolph, 10 years old and with his pony, was left in charge of herding and caring for their livestock, waiting for his father's return. He came across a small store in a tent where candy was available and soon became acquainted with the Indian proprietor; being a helpful young fellow he was soon putting things up on the shelves and earning his candy.

He recalls how, many years later he met a young Indian out in this area where he lives and through the conversation found him to be a relative of the proprietor in the tent store, so long ago.

Leaving Ponoka they journeyed to Edberg by wagon which took two days with Randolph herding the livestock along and he tells of how the mosquitoes hung over them like a cloud.

After settling down on their homestead, he went with his father to Duhamel which was the nearest Post Office and store. While driving along the trail they heard the cries of a small child which seemed to be in search of its mother, out in the tall grass. They took the child with them and on nearing a farmstead; stopped to see if it might belong there, and were informed by the children here that it did. The children were caring for the youngster as their mother



Gudrun and Randolph Rasmussen in 60's.

had been buried a couple of days ago — the rigors of a pioneer family.

In February of 1902 a neighbor, Pete Aursness came to Ole asking if Randolph would be allowed to come with him to drive his older team of horses with a load of oats; as he was taking these two loads to Spruce Coulee to the Ells Whitehorn Ranch.

They left Edberg about daybreak, it was twenty degrees below zero with at least one foot of snow. There was a trail off in that direction in the summer time, but now was visible only at intervals as there weren't any other settlers out in that area at that time. Randolph followed along behind Pete all day. Heading towards the south east and with the approaching of dusk, they stopped to rest and feed the horses and eat their cold lunch; they were somewhere out on the hard pan. After the rest Pete looked out at the moon now starting to show low in the south east and says, "We go that way." So they went on their way but hadn't gone very far when one of the older horses started to stumble and so Randolph called out to Pete, who told him to unhook and put his horses in the lead and to ride one, watching carefully as there were tracks showing now and again. These tracks would lead them to the ranch if they didn't lose sight of them, and this was somewhere near where the Arne Normans live.

So Randolph kept a close view and with the aid of the dim moonlight they angled on; coming out just at the top of the ravine near where the old Larson place is and here the road now goes down into the valley; slowly they went being careful not to get one of the runners in a washout, or the load might upset. Get-



Randolph's homestead house, 1911.

ting nearer they saw a light; it had been a long day, warmth and rest would be appreciated. Their destination was where Otto Paulson's old home place is now. (1979)

Upon arriving they were warmly welcomed. The horses were unharnessed, fed and bedded down. Pete and Randolph were taken in, fed and given a place to sleep. The next day Mr. Whitehorn took a team and outfit and brought the other load of oats in. There were barns and a home there, built of logs from the area, cut and hewn to fit.

There were other guests at the ranch that night as well, a man and his wife had experienced a tragedy that day, losing their small child and home by fire. They were squatters trying to get a place to settle. The father was out cutting wood, and the mother went to get water from Willow Creek and on her return found the house in flames. She was unable to reach her youngster. The next day they left, going back west to start life over in different surroundings.

In the Spring of 1906, Ole Rasmussen sold his homestead taking Randolph with him to go back to Idaho to seek employment for the summer. Ole left another son, Robert at Edberg, to finish some work to prove up his homestead. Randolph and his father found employment working for the railroad and at a sawmill. His father picked up the pay checks and deposited them in the bank there. When fall came and they were to return to Alberta, they went to the bank to draw out their summer savings. Randolph recalls how they counted out the full amount in gold pieces except one two dollar piece of paper money. Putting it into his pockets he turned to his father and suggested they go get their tickets so he could get rid of some of the weight.

On their return that fall and winter of 1906-07 they stayed with Robert. Randolph tells how that was one of the coldest winters he remembers. It was around fifty degrees below zero for a month steady, and at times it dropped to sixty-two below with around four feet of snow.

In 1908 at the age of eighteen, Randolph came to

Spruce Coulee where he took a homestead — the north west quarter of section 20-42-17-W4. He says he hired Len Kneeland to break up the first ten acres for him. He bought section Nine later when he took Gudrun Pederson as a bride in 1922, where they lived, farmed and raised their family of five. Gudrun's parents Lauritz and Marie Pederson, were also homesteaders in this neighborhood at that time.

Randolph was born in 1890 and Gudrun was born in 1903. Their oldest daughter Agnes (Mrs. Alf Chambers) of Edmonton has two sons, Norman — married with two children, and Douglas — the younger is working. Palmer — the only son lives at home with his parents and farms. Ruby (Mrs. Harold Danielson) of Abbotsford, B.C. — and three children, Loren, newly married and working, Irene, working and Kathy, finishing school. Mabel (Mrs. Ron Barnes) farms east of Donalda, they have six children — Dennis, married, has two children, Denise, married has two girls, Gary, married, has two children, Gail and Darlene working and Darcey at home, still in school. Edith (Mrs. Bob Curr) of Stettler, also has two children — Darrel, newly married and Debbie at home.

Gudrun and Randolph now live on the farm that they purchased from Nels and Helga Aspedokken in 1945, south across from Spruce Coulee.

In 1952 they purchased the Skogstad place, formerly the Lars Hagen homestead, now owned by son Palmer, who does all the farming with Randolph's help.

They are still active members of the community and Lutheran Church. Besides farming, sawing lumber and handling large machinery, Randolph has been very interested in photography and the developing of pictures. He started this hobby as a young man. The pictures shown here were taken and developed by him, including the one taken of himself, reading at the table. Later in life he became interested in curling and enjoyed his winters at the rink.

Gudrun has always enjoyed gardening and handwork, especially embroidery and crochet. She helped reorganize the Lutheran Ladies aid in Spruce Coulee in the '30's by having the first meeting in her home. She spent the next few years as the President of the organization which is still active in the community.

Earl Stenson

Earl and Marion Stenson and their two small daughters Valerie and Laurel, moved to the Cyril Bernard farm in May of 1955 from the Hastings Coulee district near Forestburg where Earl was raised.

This was the beginning of a very busy eighteen

years for them. They raised purebred Hereford cattle and Yorkshire hogs. They eventually quit raising pigs but kept the Herefords until they quit farming. They raised turkeys for quite a few years and have fond memories of the turkey-picking bees they had each fall with the Otto Paulsons.

Marion joined the Spruce Coulee Ladies' Aid and later the Prairie Grove United Church Women. The family attended the Prairie Grove United Church until it closed.

The Spruce Coulee school was closed the year before Valerie started school so she took most of her schooling in Donalda. She took grade twelve in Stettler and went on to the University of Alberta to obtain her B.Ed. After teaching for five years, she decided to try the business world. At present she is employed in the accounting department of Inter-Provincial Pipeline in Edmonton.

Laurel attended Donalda school until finishing grade ten, then took grades eleven and twelve in Stettler. After graduation, she took a secretarial course at Red Deer College and later obtained a Medical Receptionist's diploma. She was married to Phil Douglas of Red Deer in March of 1972. After living in Calgary, Richmond, British Columbia and Edmonton, they are now settled in Red Deer. They have one son, Craig.

Earl and Marion sold the farm to Harvey Iverson of Brownfield in 1973 and bought a smaller farm west of Ponoka. However, early in 1974 they regretfully decided to quit farming, and almost exactly a year after moving to Crestomere sold out completely. They bought a home in Lacombe, where Earl has been employed for four years.

Ed and John Strom

The Strom brothers came to Canada from Sweden. They farmed and lived on the Tom Loney homestead N.W. 6-42-17, also rented 7. Later John rented the Win Logan farm and lived there. In the fall of 1926, Ed's team, with rack was found tied near the river, but Ed had mysteriously disappeared and his body was never found, although an extensive search was made. John held a farm sale on the Logan place, left, and was never heard from again.

Hans Skogstad

Hans and Jenny, with their family, George, Clara, Harry, Lloyd, Albert, Raymond, Inez, and Gladys, came from Ferndale, Washington in March 1922, to Spruce Coulee to settle on N.E. 32-41-17, the Lars Hagen homestead. The two had traded farms; the Hagens going to Washington. Three more daughters were born, Myrtle, Emma, and Loreen.



Hans and Jenny Skogstad and their 11 children made this house their home from 1922-1937. It was built by Lars Hagen.

All these children attended school at Spruce Coulee. Albert passed away in his youth and is buried here.

Jenny was an early member of the Ladies' Aid at Spruce Coulee.

They farmed here until 1937, when they held an auction and returned to Washington. (Lars Hagen was to return here.)

Clara had married Thorval Ramstad and remained in Alberta. George married Margaret Paulson, they remained here also, on the Paulson home-



Hans and Jenny Skogstad. The day they went back to Washington.



George and Margaret (Paulson) Skogstad, 1929.

stead, until Margaret passed away the following February, after which George and children went to Washington.

The farm was rented to Max and Irene Fenske, until they bought at Hastings Coulee. Evert and Leo then farmed the place for 2 years, followed by Eugene Eichhorn who rented it and lived here until the Eichhorn Brothers started their machine shop in Donalda. Palmer Rasmussen now owns the home quarter, bought from Skogstads in 1952, the one across the road on 5, is owned by Randolph Rasmussen. The other quarter, Tom Loney's homestead, known as Strom's N.W. 6-42-17 was sold to John Stanvick, who later sold it to Evert and Leo Norman, who are the present owners.

Arthur — Lois Walker

(The years lived in the Donalda area as related by Arthur Walker)

Lois and I, with our 1½ year old son, Loyde, moved from Red Willow, to a farm ½ mile east of Donalda, in the spring of 1929. We lived in an old log house with the chinking all gone. It had a frame room built on the back. We were never lonely though, as the squirrels moved in upstairs, and the odd gopher would venture into the kitchen. I went to work for the Municipality on road building, and hired on as dump wagon driver, but also operated the maintainer and elevator grader. In the winter, I took on the job of looking after the skating rink. Our daughter, Joyce was born in January of 1930.



Art and Lois Walker Golden Wedding. Back row: Lloyde, Gayle, Russell. Front row: Blythe, Lois, Art, and Joyce.

In the fall of 1930, we moved to the Roseberry place a little further east, where we lived for 2 years.

In the spring of 1932, we moved to the Faulkner place S.E. 36-41-18, now the Jim Adair farm, where another daughter, Gayle was born in July of 1932.

Nineteen thirty four was quite an eventful year for us. One day in April, Gayle got lost at 7:00 a.m. She had gone with Loyde and Joyce to take the cows down a lane to pasture, and coming back, she stopped to pick crocuses, getting left behind. When, after a time, she hadn't returned, they went back for her, only to find she had disappeared. By the time that Lois had established the fact that she was indeed lost, a number of hours had passed. I'd left home at 6:30 on horseback to see a distant neighbor, and when I returned home at 12 noon was greeted with the news "Gayle is lost!" I sent Loyde to our nearest neighbor, Albert Komishke, on the Logan place, with the news and headed for a dugout we had close by. After walking back and forth through the dugout, being reasonably sure she wasn't there, I headed elsewhere to look. Albert, on his horse "Ski", alerted the neighbors and in no time at all, the yard was full of horses, wagons, buggies, and people. It was truly marvellous, the way neighbors from miles around rallied in this tragic event. The most frustrating was, Gayle was very good at answering, so we knew if she was within answering distance and able to, that she would do so, — but the crows had just returned and everytime we'd call "Gayle", there'd be at least a dozen crows or so answer. Finally, at around 3 p.m. I met her walking out of some bush, her sweater half off, half on, one sleeve on, one off, dragging on the ground behind her. She had obviously had a sleep — but had travelled from the south west corner of the quarter we lived on to the north east corner of the next quarter north. It was a tremendous relief to all when she was found safe and sound.

In the fall, at the start of harvesting, I had a run away with a team. When driving out of a neighbors gate, one of the team had thrown her bridle and spooked. We first turned right, hitting the ditch; then sharp left, the wheel caught the wagon box and threw it off along with me and the neighbors boy, Evert Norman, into a fence. Evert received a gash on the leg and I received many extensive cuts and gashes on the head, body and face, requiring suturing and taping. Gust Norman's family saw what had happened, and he came with his car and took me to the doctor. After being doctored, I went home, picked up the team, which had run 2 miles to the Van Blarcom place. I hired Albertine Clouton, a neighbor's daughter, and quite a horsewoman, to cut my crop with the binder.

Shortly after this, our third daughter, Blythe was born to us in September, 1934.

In the spring of 1935, we moved to the Randolph Rasmussen place and waited until July for the grass to grow; then, packed up all our belongings and headed west to seek our fortune.

We eventually got our second son, Russell, in October of 1942.

Loyde married in 1957, had 6 children, now has 4 grandchildren.

Joyce married in 1949, had 8 children, now has 5 grandchildren.

Gayle married in 1951, had 6 children, losing 1 in infancy, now has 5 grandchildren.

Blythe married in 1954, had 4 children, now has 5 grandchildren.

Russell married in 1962, had 2 children, neither of which are yet married.

We celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary on December 30, 1976.

Ellsworth Whitehorn

The first white settlers in the Meeting Creek Valley eight miles east of Donalda were Ellsworth Newton Whitehorn and his partner Louis Fischer. They were natives of Iowa, seeking adventure and homesteads. They arrived at Ponoka in mid April 1900. The Canadian Pacific Railway train made the round trip from Calgary to Edmonton once a week.

More settlers were coming to Ponoka than there were houses for them, so Louis Fischer stayed in the Village and did carpenter work while E. N. Whitehorn went out looking for homestead land. He filed on a quarter section south of Dried Meat Lake and began residence and improvements, a cabin, barn, fences and as soon as the season permitted, he plowed some acreage and seeded some oats. Mos-

quitoes were a terrible plague. They flew in clouds so thick that they cast a shadow on the ground. They stung the horses so that it was next to impossible to work the ground.

Whitehorn decided to leave there, so loaded his things into a wagon and drove to Ponoka. Among his letters at the Post Office was one from a friend in Iowa, Mr. Abe Ball, offering Whitehorn and Fischer a partnership in cattle ranching. They decided to accept the offer, so Whitehorn started looking for a suitable location.

He found one about three miles east of the junction of the Willow Creek on the south side of the valley, timbered with spruce and aspen. There was shelter and water, and all around was open prairie for grazing and sloughs with borders of grass to make hay. In a bend of the creek Philip Paul, an Indian, had a cabin where he lived trapping beaver and muskrat. It was school land and he was willing to sell his cabin. It was October 3, 1900, that Whitehorn and Fischer moved. (Whitehorn's 27th birthday). Next morning the ground was covered with snow three inches deep, by the time the storm was over.

They built corrals and sheds. One shed was made of big spruce logs, some of which are still there.

Samuel Dickey, father of Mrs. Otto Paulson, bought out the Whitehorn and Fischer interest in the cattle and ranched there for many years. In a period of about three years, settlers came into the surrounding country and much range land was fenced and farmed.



Ells Whitehorn on homestead with oats loaded for town.



"Barney" bringing Dorothy and Leila home 1913.

Ellsworth Whitehorn homesteaded the S.W. ¼ 28-41-17-W4th. He raised shorthorn cattle, Percheron horses, Tamworth hogs. He purchased the quarter of land adjoining his homestead on the north, also a quarter of hay land 3½ mils south where he raised grain. It was school land east of Willow Park school. Ellsworth Whitehorn married Lila Dinwiddie at Lacombe in 1906.

In the fall of 1918, he built a house in Donalda where the children could live while attending school; his daughters Mabel, Dorothy and Leila Elizabeth,

also a brother George's children, Jennie, Dorothy, Gladys and Louis.

In 1944 his health began to fail and they moved to Vancouver, British Columbia. On July 23, 1949 Ellsworth passed away. Lila Whitehorn passed away April 18, 1969 in Culver City, California. They are both buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Vancouver, British Columbia. Dorothy (Whitehorn) Sherman passed away in 1979.

Ellsworth Whitehorn made the bridge crossing Meeting Creek at the site of the former Dickey coal mine, the road up the hill going east from the mine and the road up the gulch on the north side of the valley. He was a member of the district council for several years. His neighbors near the homestead were the Dickey, Goransrud, Aspedokken, Paulson, and Haugejordens.

George Edwin Whitehorn

George Whitehorn came from Iowa in 1912, to the Willow Park district, to settle on N. ½ 22-41-17, both quarters being Pickering homesteads. The family then consisted of wife Gertrude, Jenny, Lewis, and Dorothy. Two more children, Herbert and Ruth were born while on this place. Dorothy passed away in 1927, aged 17 years, with infantile paralysis.

They left this farm in 1935 to move on N.E. 34-41-18, a quarter bought from Mr. Logan, across the coulee, east of Donaldal.

Jenny became a teacher and taught the years 1923-1945, passing away in 1946.

Lewis was also a teacher from about 1925 until his illness in 1938. He is presently residing in Paint-earth Lodge in Castor.

Son Herbert took over the farming operation in

1936, the two working together, until the father, George, became an invalid, was paralyzed, then bed-ridden for several years, about five, Gertie nursing him at home the whole time until his passing in 1943, at the age of 72.

Herb and his mother continued to live on the farm, raising pigs, milking cows. Mrs. Whitehorn joined the Spruce Coulee Ladies Aid, as did daughters Jenny and Ruth for a time. Herb was very active in community work at Spruce Coulee, with the Rural Electrification, Farmer's Union, Mutual Telephone, and the Spruce Coulee Community Club.

The Whitehorns joined the Jehovah's Witnesses in 1960, and have been active with them since.

Herb held a farm sale in the fall of 1963, renting his land to Ron Barnes, and left to make his home in Stettler. His mother went to Stettler the previous fall to make her home with daughter Ruth and family.

In 1972, Herb sold the farm. The home place to Herb Mueller, and the Van Blarcom homestead quarter to Wayne Komishke.

Herb was married in 1967, to Ruth Andrus, a widow with one daughter, Wilma, whom he later adopted. They resided in Stettler until moving to Olds in 1978, where Herb is employed.

Ruth married William Thomas of Mirror in 1944. They resided in Stettler, Donaldal, Red Deer, then back to Donaldal-Bashaw area. From there they moved to Stettler in 1962 to make their home. By this time there were 5 children, Melvin, Viola, Mary, Faye, and Eleanor Margaret. There are now 6 grandchildren.

Gertrude Whitehorn, mother and grandmother, passed away in 1971 at the age of 93 years. Both parents lie in the Donaldal Cemetery.

Bill passed away suddenly in January, 1977. Ruth has made her home at Paragon Place in Stettler since March of that year.

The Wilkinson Story

(by daughter Florence Chinell)

Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson with their three children arrived at Edberg, Alberta from Wadena Minnesota in 1906. Julius, better known as "Jude", homesteaded N.W. Sec. 26-42, which was the same section as Len Kneeland (Minnie Wilkinson's brother), homesteaded. As the years passed, three more children were born to them. On this homestead Jude opened a mine, most of the coal from this mine being sold to Daysland settlers.

In 1920 he sold the mine to Whislo and then leased the Chris. Hanson and Miner Bros. mines until 1923 when he moved to the Yeoford area near Winfield. They moved there because a son filed a



Pickering homestead house on farm bought by George Whitehorn 1912, now owned by Lawrence Helfer.



Hal and Jess Enders, Grandfather Jude Wilkenson, and one of Jude's sons.

timber lease to take off the timber. Later, giving up this venture, he moved his family back to Donalda, buying Jim Calvin's mine in 1928. It was worked by his men until he sold it in 1936 to his eldest son Frank.

During all those years of coal mining, Mrs. Wilkinson cooked for the miners and many of the coal haulers. The last few years she helped her youngest daughter Louise and her granddaughter Della Enders. These were long hard working hours.

Soon after selling the mine, Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson and two sons left to make their home at White Rock, B.C. They moved to an acreage near Langley some time later. Here Jude and Minnie Wilkinson resided until the time of their passing in November of 1943.

Inventing of Snuff

Ten thousand Swedes, ran through the weeds,
Chased by one Norwegian,
The dust from the Weeds, made "snus" for the Swedes,
And they called it Copenhagen.

UP-TO-DATE SCHOOL DISTRICT



History of the Up-To-Date School District

The school house is situated on the N.W. corner of 11-41-19-W4. It is still standing on the original site, and is being used as a granary by E. A. Steinhoff and son Allan. It is situated 4 miles south and three miles west of Donalda.

The Up-To-Date school was built in 1909 or 1910 by Mr. John Tucker. The lumber was hauled from Stettler by team and wagon.

The teachers were namely (they may not be in order) but believe all have been named. Mrs. Syson was the first one; Dad Winters; J. I. Jones; Mr. Hartman; Mr. Boggs; Mr. Henry; Miss Hunter; Miss Lawson; Ruth Green; Irene Armstrong; Marguerite Simon; Ruth Handyside; Viola Clark; Mrs. Oatway; Alma Johnson; Alice Haugejorden; Mrs. Duke; Mrs. Adair; Mrs. Renwick; Amy Berg; Marion Ross; Ruth Hildebrandt; Miss Dewar; Miss Britt; Mrs. Kromm; Bernice Awe; Mr. Plant; Gordon Duckworth; Nola Heater; Mr. Currie and Dave Holt.

The course was from Grade one to Eight for some time. Later Grade nine was taught. The teachers boarded in different homes in the district and took a special interest in the social life of the community including dances, social evenings, ball-games and picnics. The important social event of the year was the Christmas program, led by the teacher and assisted by the parents.



First year Up-to-Date was in operation. Pupils are Klemmes, Steinhoffs and Thurston Syson.



The late Mrs. Caroline Syson was one of the first, if not the first, teacher at Up-to-Date School. She boarded with the Klemmes. This is a picture of how she and Thurston (son) travelled home week-ends. The driver is her husband Dick Syson.

No one in the Up-To-Date district will forget the many hours spent by Mrs. Besse Damberger in assisting the teachers. She walked to the school many days to help with music and costumes etc.

There was no musical instrument in the school and again, thanks to Mrs. Damberger's lead, box socials, dances and a variety of social events were held until sufficient money was gathered to purchase a piano.

When the school was closed, due to centralization, the piano was given to Mrs. Damberger, to do with as she desired. I believe it was passed on to one of her granddaughters.

One of the teachers, Viola Clark was to be married at the end of term. Each mother made a quilt block with the family name and some other decoration on it. It was put together and quilted at a parent's home.



Class of 1921 — Up-to-Date. Back — Chap Zuehlke, Lucy Pound, Mae Pound, Agnes Brewster. 2nd row — Mac Brewster, Alberta Steinhoff, Dorothy Brewster. Front — Elsie Steinhoff, Nellie Zuehlke, Pat Steinhoff. Teacher Miss Bernice Awe.



1928 Harold Heater, Hilda Repp, Margaret Zuehlke, Lyle Damberger.



Up-to-Date School children 1943. Back row: Gordon Steinhoff, Mavis Jones, Margaret Steinhoff, Agnes Watland, George LaRose. 2nd row: Anna Mae LaRose, Allan Steinhoff, Francis LaRose, Wilma Watland. Front row: Howard Steinhoff, Marlene Jones, Eugene LaRose.

Up-To-Date Church

There was no church building so for a number of years, Mr. Bowering, a homesteader of S.W. of 12- a Baptist, held services at the W. C. Steinhoff home. Later a Mr. Ratcliff, a Methodist from Donald, held services in the school and also at Skybo school.

Homesteaders

The important reason for the homesteaders to come to Canada was their desire to own land.

Many of the first buildings were very crude, varying from sod, log buildings with sod roofs or all log with homemade shingles.

There were groves of trees which were used for building material and making of crude furniture. The women brought bedding, curtains, etc. and soon had a home-like place.

The farming was done primarily with horses, a few oxen were used. They were steady and strong, but very slow, and were replaced with horses as soon as possible.

The machinery was small but sufficient for the amount of land that was cultivated. Some of the early seeding was done by hand.

There wasn't much travelling done except to the neighbors. When a trip to town was necessary, it might be as far away as fifty miles, and might take a

week to make the return trip, enough provisions were bought to last months.

Neighbors were closer together as there was a family on each quarter of a homestead section. This made it possible to have more companionship. At the present time so many acres are owned by one family that neighbors are farther apart, and each one seems more independent.

Herbert Samuel Awe

Herbert S. Awe arrived in the Red Willow district from Sherman twp., Harden County, Iowa in 1906, accompanied by a cousin, Harvey Redahl, and two friends, John and Wm. Kahl.

They brought with them the machinery, mules and other tools necessary for farming.

They filed their homesteads. Herbert's on N.W. 6-41-18-W4, John on the N.E. 6-41-18-W4. Bill bought N.E. 12-41-19-W4 from a previous homesteader. Harvey Radahl gave up his work and returned to Iowa in 1908.

For lumber and food staples, a trip by wagon was made to Lacombe. Each built settlers cabins. Herbert's cabin is the kitchen of the house still standing on the original site.

Herbert, Harvey and John were members of the first baseball team of Red Willow, playing their first game against Krugerville, June 15, 1907.

Herbert's sister Leona came and lived with him in 1913. Another sister Bernice also came up from Iowa in 1920 and taught in the Up-To-Date School.



Herb Awe family. Herb Jr., Herb Sr., Anna, Gladys and George.

In December of 1925 he was united in marriage to Emma Steinhoff. Their family consists of Anna, Mrs. David Sherriff, Erskine, Herbert, married to Alleen Paulson of Donaldda, George, married to Mary Anne Melnyk, now living on the home place, Gladys, Mrs. Henry Dahl, Red Willow, and Diane, Mrs. John McEwing, of Red Willow.

Herb served many years as councillor for the Municipal District of Haig No. 396 which was formed in 1918, and a member of the Board of Cora Lynn School. In 1917 he bought the first Chevrolet car from Holt-Bradley of Stettler.

Herbert passed away on July 11, 1943, at the age of 59 years.

John Alexander Brewster

Mr. Brewster emigrated to Wetaskiwin from Sheldon, Iowa in 1905. He farmed there for three years before taking up a homestead at Donaldda in 1908, on N.W. 1/2 14-41-19-W4.

The family's first home was made of logs. Most of the settlers houses had a sod roof, but he decided that a shingle roof would be more satisfactory. The material had to be hauled from Ponoka with team and wagon, a trip of four days there and back.

There were 10 children in the family, four boys and six girls. They all received their schooling at Up-to-Date, one mile south of the homestead.

Mrs. Brewster (Maude) was an avid gardener, working long summer hours to raise sufficient vegetables for the family as well as several varieties of fruit. She passed away in 1937, leaving "Sandy" as he was frequently called, to carry on. In 1961 he sold the farm and retired, passing away in 1963.

The eldest son, Oren, passed away many years ago due to an accident in a British Columbia lumber camp. Remaining are: Mac of Cherry Point, Alberta; Donald of Edmonton; John of Stettler; Agnes of Washington State; Dorothy of Kamloops; Marjorie of Camrose; Mildred in Southern Alberta; Jessie in Washington State; and Suzanne in Colorado.

Max and Besse Damberger

Max M. Damberger was born in Campbell County, South Dakota on May 30, 1886 of German parents, one of a family of ten. His parents came to Edmonton in 1903 and settled at Ross Creek at Morinville on a homestead.

His father could have bought the lots in 1906 where the Hudson Bay store now stands for seventy-five dollars but with a family and going on to a homestead, such an investment was out of the question.

When they entered Canada they were ill with



Max and Besse Damberger 1963.

scarlet fever and had to stay at Strathcona (South Edmonton) under quarantine for three weeks, in a tent.

They saw hard times but managed to eke out a living and enjoyed dances and good times as young people did in those days. They often drove thirty-five miles to a dance.

Fishing and hunting were good on Beaver Lake and added a lot to their living. There were geese, swans, ducks, etc.

Max freighted from Stony Plain to Edson, a distance of 175 miles for so much a mile. For an eight day trip he received eighty-eight dollars. Once it was seventy-three degrees below zero. It was fourteen miles across Lobstick Lake. It never froze where the river emptied into the lake and steam could be seen for thirty or forty miles. There were fifteen hundred teams on that road.

One freighter was loaded with dynamite. After going ten or twelve miles Max turned around and went back to tell them he wouldn't be responsible if it blew up! They said he didn't have to be.

Max came to Donalda to start a livery and draying business in 1909 and was one of the very first business men in Donalda. The railway had been surveyed but not the townsite, so businesses sprang up on the street where the creamery now stands, that being the one they expected would become the main street. Max built his livery barn on the south side of this street just north of where the curling rink now stands.

When the town was surveyed he found his barn situated on two lots, so had to buy them both.

Equipment for his livery barn included two driving teams, two heavy work teams, two driving buggies and one democrat as well as wagons and sleighs.

Max and a partner Joe Pollis, carried on a brisk business driving travellers to surrounding towns, and freighting lumber, hardware, and groceries from Stettler before the railway came through. It took him two and a half hours to drive the winding trail to Stettler with driving team and buggy. A round trip could be made in one day with a load of freight.

The men charged by the hundredweight so as to make at least six dollars per day. The charge for the livery teams was the same.

After the railway came, Max unloaded cars of lumber, brick, flour, etc. for twelve dollars per car-load.

He also dug cellars and wells. Wells were dug from sixteen to forty feet in one day. Water in one well came in so fast, they got out leaving pick and shovel behind. The quantity of water in this one was so ample that it supplied steam engines.

Max hauled water to early Donalda residents for twenty-five cents per barrel. He also hauled grain for nearby farmers.

The building was sold to Fred Hilker, now of Stettler, in 1913, for a garage, and it burned down in 1924. Haviland, who ran the Donalda Hotel, built a smaller barn and purchased Max's equipment and horses to use for driving his patrons.

Max belonged to the Canadian Order of Foresters. He was a charter member of the Donalda and Bashaw Moose Lodges, and received his twenty-five year membership pin. He farmed three quarters of land until 1960. Then, following a lengthy illness after an operation, arthritis in his hip made it difficult for him to move about freely.

Max passed away on August 30, 1966.

After spending twenty years of my life in Unity, Wisconsin, I came to Alberta for the first Calgary Stampede in 1912. It was a pretty small show compared to the present day affair.

The "Rockies", the wide prairies and the newness of the country intrigued me. Even Donalda and the coulee had special charm. A horse back ride through the coulee was an event to remember. Until this time it meant riding a fat old farm horse, to cultivate corn and potatoes in a boiling hot sun so the weeds would die, and I would nearly do so too! When Nora Olson loaned me her horse and I was free to ride, just for the fun of it, I was happy.

My brothers Jesse and Charlie Graham ran a

hardware store in Donalda and that was where I first met Max. He boarded with Jesse.

In October we went to Lacombe and Bentley and in November back to Wisconsin. In May 1913, Max came down the day I was bridesmaid at my cousin's wedding. I guess that gave him the idea and in June we were married. We came back to Donalda in July.

We stayed with my brother Jesse and his wife Mary, who is Max's sister. They lived in the house occupied by Charlie Steil, and there we were properly chivareed.

We soon built our first home (the one owned by Milton Heater) and were living in it by fall. Fumed oak and Mission furniture was in style then and not only the furniture but the woodwork took on these same hues.

The neighbors gave us a "shower" and "housewarming", the first shower I had ever heard of. Grandma Murphy, who lived across the alley and proved such a dear friend and neighbor; De Witts, Winters, Pickerings, Ullmans and others were there.

I soon knew everyone. On one occasion I drove the ladies, with Pickerings horses out to Mrs. McIntyre's (some ten miles south east of town) to Ladies Aid. We tied a quilt. We had dinner and an angel food cake which was quite something in those days. Mrs. DeWitt had gone out the day before to make the cake, only to find no cream of tartar. But resourceful Mrs. McIntyre was quite sure baking powder would serve the purpose. As there was nothing else to do, Mrs. DeWitt added it and so carefully folded in the flour. Just before she put it in the oven, Laura (Mrs. McIntyre) came along picked up the bowl and gave it a good beating. Well, the results weren't so good but we ate it anyway. Hitching up to return to town, Bertha McIntyre went in between the horses and was kicked in the stomach. She crawled into the manger and came out the other end. When the excitement was over we managed to get the team hooked up only to find one democrat wheel was dry, so we got off to a bad start. We were glad, indeed, to reach Donalda later.

In the spring we went to Bentley to work for my brother George, who was building up the Shady Spring Farm, now owned by Lord and Lady Gordon. This proved to be an unfortunate move, as I became ill and we had to move back to Donalda in July.

In January Cortez arrived. Dr. Staples was somewhere between Stettler and Donalda in a bad blizzard but we were lucky to have Grandma Murphy across the alley and she saw us through the big event.

A year later in March, we had a little brother, Leslie, for him. In 1917 we had our first girl, Meryl.

The summer of 1917, we motored to Wisconsin.



Max and Bessie Damberger's 50th wedding anniversary 1963.

That was the first car we had and when Max brought it home, he didn't know it wouldn't stop when he said "whoa". He ran over the wood pile and an old couch and around the house.

The following March we rented the Fred Ullman farm and they moved into our house in town.

The 'flu outbreak in 1918 was a dreadful experience and to add to the gloom of the unknown, the masks and the death, it was cold and dark and frosty. Max took the Wilson boys, early victims to Stettler hospital and while there saw the doctor, who told him he was O.K. but by the time he reached home was running a high temperature and really had it. The rest of us escaped.

Mrs. Ed Grice, who lived in what we called the "doll house" although very frightened of it made herself a big coverall apron and with her mask on, carried soup to any home where there were 'flu patients. When Alf Lee and hired man both died everyone was shocked, as they were well on the way to recovery.

In 1919 Lyle arrived and the next spring we moved to the farm, N.E.14-41-19-w4 which Max had bought from Harry Wallace. Later he bought south east of twenty seven from John Tucker and north east from August Nelson. We had for neighbors; the Pounds, Charlie Jones', Bill Kahls, Klemmes', Steinhoffs and Brewsters. That fall Mr. Pound was struck and killed by the train on the crossing in Donalda.

A few days before Christmas our house burned in bitterly cold weather. Fred Tebow was the only one who got here in time to get anything out. He and I carried the piano and the buffet out into the yard, which was all we saved. Mrs. Pound opened her house to us and was a wonderful friend. After the holidays, the neighbors, with Charlie Jones as carpenter, built us another house, in which we still live.

Water was a big item in those days and we hauled it in a barrel from Pounds, and Kahls, until the dry years in the thirties when Max had to haul for the stock with a large threshing machine tank on a wagon from whatever slough still had water.

Those were the days of dust storms that sometimes lasted three days and everything in the house was covered with dust. At last the wind would die down. Everyone would clean house from top to bottom only to wake and find the next day with the wind blowing just as hard in the opposite direction.

Finally we had a well drilled. It took most of a winter but at four hundred and thirty feet we got a wonderful well. It has never let us down and was well worth all the money. It gave off considerable gas at first, which could easily be lit with a match.

I was Secretary-Treasurer for many years, of the Up-To-Date school district, in fact until it went into the large division. I think of the first time Mrs. Howard McLellan and I cleaned the school house and of the many times I have cleaned it since.

Then our children grew up and went to Donalda High School. They left home in the dark and did not get home again until dark in the winter months but they were blessed with good health.

There were no baby sitters then and at a school house dance one would find a row of little ones laid out back of the organ, peacefully sleeping on blankets, coats, etc.

It was with deep regret that we lost the Pound family after their mother's death but the vacancy was filled when Howard McLellan and family came to live here. No one ever had better friends than they and we have many happy memories of threshing with them, etc. We women helped each other thru the threshing season, sometimes eight to ten days at each place. They were long hard days but very worth while.

By then I had a saddle horse to ride and I also did a lot of walking just for pleasure. Roads weren't much in those days and could cause a car a lot of grief. The men worked with horses and fresnos building and straightening roads. Mr. Pound, an old rail builder acted as road boss and later Charlie Jones held this important position.

With the larger school unit came school vans and later buses with enormous expenditures of the tax payers money. Whether this is better or worse is debatable.

Then came World War II. Many men left and help was hard to get, so our boys filled a mans place, stooking etc. For the first time we put a tractor on a binder and I drove while Max handled the binder. It

was hard work but we managed and for many years we harvested our own grain and many acres for neighbors. There were many side hills that gave me some anxious moments. I often marvelled at the ingenuity men showed in making repairs in the field. Meryl grew up to be a good housewife and cook, feeding us.

We have had some bad hail storms but in the early days there were no electrical storms and little hail. One bad one took the roof off our barn. Ruth McLellan, Helen Damberger and I were in town and a mile out of town we had to stop the car because the rain was so heavy we couldn't see. Just then the roof of Don Peterson's barn went soaring by just in front of us, taking telephone and power lines with it, so it was fortunate we stopped when we did.

In March 1951 we experienced the worst blizzard I ever saw. Max, Lyle and I were in Stettler, as were a lot of other people from Donalda. When we came out of the show this terrific storm was raging. We started out but found it hard going. Between Ericksons and home we finally stalled in the deep snow drifts. The men managed to wade home and get a team to pull us the rest of the way. Telephones kept up a steady ringing and cracking all night and everyone was snow bound for days. Don Ames walked home on the railroad tracks the next day. Cort and Archie MacDonald were in Camrose and Ina was alone on the Oscar Olson farm with three little children. Emil and Erna Ekholm finally dug their way through to them.

Our five children grew up and married. Cortez and Ina Heisz and Leslie and Helen Hagen were married in a double wedding ceremony.

Then Lyle and Sheila Lind from Bulwark, a telephone operator at Coronation were married. Meryl was married to William Koehler and lastly Patricia married Fred Williams. Meryl now lives in Edmonton, Patricia in Bashaw, Lyle at Stettler and Cort and Les at Donalda.

Footnote:

After Max passed away in 1966, Besse remained on the farm for a number of years, then she moved into Donalda. Besse entered the Stettler Auxiliary Hospital in 1978 and remained there until her death on July 6, 1979.

Cortez Damberger

Cort was born in Donalda in 1915. He was married in 1943 to Ina Heisz — a ledger keeper for the Imperial Bank. Mark Cook was the manager then.

Their first home was in the Science Mound district on the Dave McKay farm.

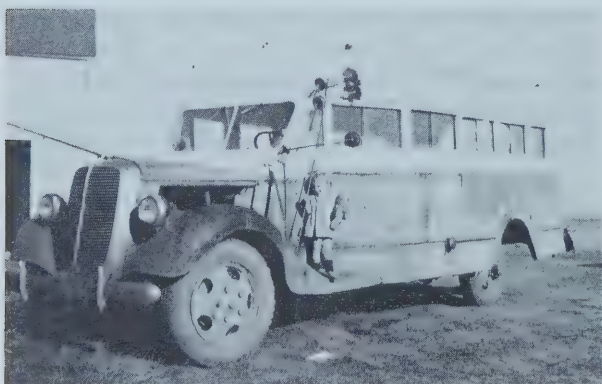
Cort farmed and drove the old horse van to Donalda school. He found the trip long and slow, so went



Cortez and Ina Damberger family 1975.

to Edmonton and bought a bus. The children really enjoyed this as they didn't have to get up so early. The roads were very rough in those days, sometimes Cort ended up going through fields in order to make a trip.

In 1949, the family was living on the Lizzie Olsen farm now owned by Ove Persson. They had the misfortune of having their youngest daughter run over by the old steam passenger train. Sharron, Darlene and Ardeth decided to go visit their neighbors Emil and Erna Ekholm. As they had to cross the track to get there, Ardeth decided to stop and play between the rails with stones. The girls saw the train coming but Ardeth wouldn't budge. The two older ones left the track and ran up into the field. Ardeth was picked up under the baggage coach and rushed to St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose. Ed Johnson of Big Valley was the engineer and said that Ardeth stood up and looked at him as he blew his whistle. He realized it was a child and had the train slowed down to approximately ten miles per hour.



School Bus: One of Donalda's early school busses, privately owned by Cortez Damberger.

Beth Lawson, telephone operator in Donalda, phoned ahead for an ambulance to meet the train. Mr. Jack Lyons, the Bank Manager, rushed to the farm to pick up the family and take them to Camrose. Ardeth had a fractured hip and two teeth knocked out. She spent a week in the hospital under the care of Dr. Mac Smith. She came home on Mother's Day. Ardeth is a bank clerk at Logan Lake, British Columbia.

In the spring 1959, Cort began working as a grader operator for the County of Stettler.

Cort and Ina have six children: Sharron (Daley) in Red Deer, Darlene (Tatrum) Kamloops, British Columbia, Ardeth (Reay) Logan Lake, British Columbia, Barry at Logan Lake, Marty at Donalda and Richard in Wainwright.

In March of 1974 — the year of the heavy snow fall and flood in the spring, Cort was caught out east of Donalda trying to open a road south of Spruce Coulee Cemetery. Three days later he tried to bring his outfit home but had to leave the snow plow east of Lester Montgomerys. The drifts were so high, all you could see was the flashing light. Cort had to return home on the snow cruiser. The cat and dozer from Stettler had to dig the snow plow out.

Cort has witched many good water wells in the surrounding area. He still enjoys playing for dances on his Tenor Saxophone and met many good musicians.

Leslie Damberger

Les, second son of the late Max and Besse Damberger, and Helen Hagen, daughter of Mrs. Agnes Hagen and the late Marcus Hagen, were married in a double wedding ceremony, October 25, 1943, with his brother Cort and Ina Heisz, daughter of Mrs. Opal Heisz and the late Roy Heisz.

Their honeymoon was a trip out west of Buck Lake, big game hunting.

Les and Helen started farming on the Collin Smith place, about two miles south west of where they live now. There were skunks under the house, and they had to trap fourteen of them before they could move in. During the winter and spring of 1943-44 they trapped weasels, coyotes and muskrats.

In 1945 they bought a quarter of land from John Tucker, formerly owned by S. P. Lee. The Harker Post Office was there before the railroad came. They tore this house down and built another closer to the road. They have lived there ever since, except for a few months in 1946-1947 when they lived in Red Willow and Les drove the school bus to Stettler.

They have six children. Ron was born in 1946 at Stettler. He was married in 1967 to Eileen Martin, daughter of Florence and Don Martin of Forestburg. They have a son Jim born in 1968 and a daughter



Laverne, Les, Ronny, Rob, Helen, Susan, Lane Lea 1974.

Tracy born in 1970. Ron is a plumber at Daysland, also a voluntary ambulance driver and fireman, and is on the town council.

La Verne was born at Stettler in 1948. She was married in 1968 to Dennis Gustavson, son of Mable and Carl Gustavson of Camrose. They have two daughters, Tara, born in 1973 and Tanya born in 1975. They have the Duraclean Carpet Cleaning business in Camrose.

Lane was born in 1952 at Stettler. He was married to Sandra Weins, daughter of Bessie and Frank Weins of Bashaw in 1974; they have a son Ryan born in 1977 and a daughter Raelene Kris born in 1979. They live on the former Hans Halseide farm, four miles north of Donalda. Lane is President of the Donalda Community Council and has a band called "Midnight Express".

Lea was born in 1954 at Stettler. She works at various jobs and is in the entertainment world as a singer, and plays the guitar and sometimes the drums.

Susan was born in 1956. She was married in 1976 to Bill Hegberg, son of Valerie and Harold Hegberg of Stettler. Susan works at the bank of Montreal and Bill works at Sid's Sport Shop in Camrose.

Bob was born in 1957. He was married to Valerie Stuckey, daughter of Joyce and Vic Stuckey of Red Willow in 1978. Val works at the Wheat Pool and Bob with oil field service in Stettler.

Les has been a County Councillor since 1967.

Meryl Damberger (Koehler)

Meryl Damberger was born 1917 at Donalda, to Max and Besse Damberger. She attended the Up-To-Date school and Donalda High School. She helped many of the neighbors, cooking for the threshers at

harvest time, for fifty cents an hour. They were long days from five A.M. to eleven P.M.

She married William (Bill) Koehler in 1939. He came to Donalda in 1935. Mr. Camenish hired him in Edmonton to work on his farm at Bashaw. Bill was employed by Harry Green, Bill and Ernie Steinhoff, Ole Erickson and Oscar Oisen as a farm laborer, also on Dambergers threshing crew.

They had three children; Betty, Gary and William Jr. while living in Donalda. Times were hard while at Donalda, the winters especially. Bill made a living hauling wood to Donalda, the odd load of coal and catching what wild fur-bearing animals he could. Meryl remembers him bringing a dead skunk to her bedside to skin. She was not well at the time.

They lived on the Fred Tebow place (where Les now lives) for two and a half years. The next move was to Donalda for a short time and then to Mitchinsons Coal Mines.

In 1944 they moved to Lake Wabamun where Bill received his fire boss papers. In 1948 they moved to East Coulee where Bill was employed at the Atlas Coal Mine; he was also a competitor on "Mine Rescue Team".

After eleven years there, Bill accepted employment on the "Dew Line" in the Canadian Arctic as a "first aider". This was when the Dew Line was being constructed. During this time Meryl worked at the Silver Slipper Restaurant in Drumheller.

After a year and a half, Bill returned from Dew Line and they moved to Edmonton and entered the Real Estate business. He has been with Webber Brothers Realty for the past twenty years.

Meryl worked for several restaurants in the city, the last ten years being employed at the Chateau Lacombe as cashier. The last three years she has been busy with her home, yard and caring for her ten grandchildren when needed.

Betty lives in Edmonton, married to Albert Kolada, and they have four children. Albert has his own trucking business.

Gary lives in Calgary; he married Kathleen Goodwin and they have four children. He has his papers for Constructional Engineer, and is employed at Calgary Airport.

William Jr. has his B. of Ed. degree and teaches at Bonnie Doon, in Edmonton. He married Marie Mador and they have two children.

Pat Damberger (Williams)

Patricia Damberger married Alfred Benjamin Williams, eldest son of Laurence and Elsie Williams in April 1946. Pat and Fred resided in southern Alberta for one year and in 1947 moved back to the

Williams homestead. They lived here for eight years, until Fred went to work for Norm Holt in Bashaw in 1956.

In June 1947 they had a daughter, Lynda Marie. Lynda went to school in Meeting Creek for a short while until the family moved to Bashaw. Lynda married Bob Parent of Mirror and they reside in Mayerthorpe with their children; Kathy, Barry and Dale.

Pat and Fred had a second daughter in October 1953. Debra "Deb" went to school in Bashaw and went to university to obtain her teaching degree. She taught in Swan Hills for three years. Her husband Bill Spiller of Red Deer also teaches in Swan Hills. They have one son, Scott.

Their third child was a son, Laurence. Larry has his Civil Engineering degree from the University of Alberta, and is employed in St. Albert.

In June 1960 a son Kevin was born. He is in his second year of Business Administration at Red Deer College.

Fred is semi-retired and he and Pat still reside in Bashaw.

C. W. Dewitt

Mr. Dewitt homesteaded on the N.E. 14-41-19-W4. He did not farm for many years, but moved into Donalda and among various other businesses, operated a furniture store. He later settled on a farm northwest of Donalda, now owned and farmed by Gordon Rochon. Their family consisted of one daughter who married C. B. Murphy.

Olaf Albin Erickson

Mr. Erickson was born in Sweden in 1892. He left Sweden for Canada at nineteen years of age. He worked in the Peace River country logging, freight-



Harry Erickson Family 1977. Back row: Leona, Fraser, Emma, Harry. Front row: Dean, Carol, Betty-Jean.



Lois, Jim, Lee, Judy, Shirley and Ben Erickson 1977.

ing and in lumber camps until he bought land in the Meeting Creek district.

In the spring of 1924 he came to the Up-to Date district, bought land and in the fall of 1924 was united in marriage to Emma Klemme.

They made their home on S.W. 13-41-19-W4. and farmed there until 1955. Their younger son Ben was married and took over the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Erickson then moved to Donalda. Ole then bought a half section south of Donalda, which he farmed until his retirement at 79 years of age.

Harry, the elder son, married, and is living in the Buena Vista district.

Leon Filiatreault

Mr. Filiatreault came to Alberta from Bimidji, Minnesota in 1926 or 1927. In his youth he had had an accident and lost a lower limb. He carried on as a cigar maker until machines replaced manual labor.

During that time he invested his earnings in land: N.E. 15-41-19 W4. His father lived on the farm until Leon came to Canada. Not being able to farm, he



Ole and Emma Erickson with Ben and Harry.

rented the land to Wm. Steinhoff, later selling it to him.

He drove a 1925 Model "T" Ford Coupe and was a welcome visitor in many homes. When farmers cut their yearly supply of wood, he went from place to place splitting it. His favorite saying was: "I must get the wood pile split or my plate will be broken".

Charlie Jones

Charlie Jones lived on N. E. 11-41-19-w4 for many years. He went through the first World War with no injuries but after coming home, he caught an arm in some machinery and crippled it. He carried on bravely, in spite of his handicap. His youngest son Charlie, always known as "Top" now lives at Enilda, daughter Helen Jacobs also of Enilda, daughter Mavis (deceased), and Marlene, a nurse, who married a member of the R.C.M.P. and was last heard of in Valley View,

William Jones

William and Elizabeth Jones emigrated from Swansea, Wales to Brooklyn, New York in the early 1890's. At that time they had four children, William, Elizabeth, Mathew and Arthur. They were in Brooklyn approximately one month when Garfield was born.

William Sr. was a tin mill worker so followed his trade in many major cities of the United States. In 1908 he decided to try farming. He homesteaded on N.E. ½-22-41-19-w4. Not moving the family, it required much travelling back and forth to the States. In 1912 he decided he had enough of pioneer life, so called an Auction Sale. He and Ernie Ullman had a joint auction on March 10, 1912. He sold his land to Sodaberg, the man who was suspected of the murder of Mr. Lennox, a farmer north of Stettler.

Mr. Jones then went to Tampa, Florida and bought 160 acres of fruit land. In 1916, Mr. Sodaberg gave up the farm and it was returned to Mr. Jones. In 1917 he came back to the farm.

By this time the family consisted of two more children, Stanley and Violet. Violet is the only living member of the family. Stanley had a daughter, Evelyn Ruth of Ohio and a son Stanley Howard of Alabama. Violet still farms part of her father's land.

William Klemme

The Klemme family consisted of Wm. Klemme Sr., his wife - Louise, mother Katherine, son William and daughter, Emma. They left their home in Brooklyn, New York on March 19, 1908 to begin a new life as homesteaders in Alberta.

In Fessenden, North Dakota they joined their friends the Steinhoffs. The women and children



The Klemme Family. Wm. Jr. and Wm. Sr. Louisa (wife of Wm. Sr.), Catherine (Mother of Wm. Sr.), Emma.



Louisa (Mother) and Wm. Klemme Jr.

stayed there while Mr. Klemme Sr., Mr. W. C. Steinhoff and his parents, the C. Steinhoffs journeyed to Stettler, Alberta with a box car of settlers effects.

Mr. Klemme and Mr. Steinhoff took neighboring homesteads in the Up-To-Date district. They erected log buildings on the Steinhoff property. They then returned to Fessenden to harvest Mr. Steinhoff's crop, which had been seeded prior to their departure in the spring.

In the fall of 1908 the Klemme family arrived in the Up-to-Date district and spent the first winter with the Mahaffey family as it was too late in the year to erect buildings. In the spring of 1909 they erected a log house on their homestead — S.W. ½-14-41-19-w4. and moved to their new home.

Neighbors were helpful and the first sod was turned with oxen loaned by Jake and Frank Zuehlke.

They also had a Post Office in their home for a short time. Mr. and Mrs. Klemme made their home on the homestead until their retirement in 1943. Willie and his wife took over the farm and raised pedigree cereal and grass seed. They later sold the



Neighbors; Mrs. Paul and baby, her sister Miss Ethel French, Emma Klemme, Mr. Paul behind her, Louisa Klemme, Melvin Tucker, Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Tucker, Grandma Tucker, Catherine Klemme and Wm. Klemme Sr. behind. 2 girls in front unknown.

place to E. Steinhoff and moved to Camrose. Mr. Klemme Sr., his wife Louise and William Jr. have all passed away. Marie still resides in Camrose. Daughter Carin, Mrs. David Thomas, lives in St. Albert, Son, Manfred, lives in Ontario.

Emma Klemme married Olaf Erickson in 1924. They bought S.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ -13-41-19-w4 where they built and lived until 1955 when they retired to Donalda. Their sons — Harry and Ben live and farm in the area.

Joe Mitchinson

Joe Mitchinson lived on S.E. 11-41-19-w4. He, his wife, and son Thomas and daughter Hilda had emigrated from England. Mrs. Mitchinson's health was very poor and she found the rugged life difficult. She passed away after a few years. Hilda returned to England to live with her parent's family and is now deceased.

Tom mined coal in the Donalda area for some time. He then returned to school and graduated as a steam engineer. He is now employed in the Old's College in that capacity. He married Edna Lee and they have a son and a daughter. Joe's brother Art lived with them for some time. He was an excellent gardener. After working on the grounds at Jasper Lodge for many years, he returned and cared for the Donalda cemetery as long as he was able to work.

Howard McLellan

Mr. McLellan arrived in the Donalda District with his wife and four sons; Ross, Wilmer, Andrew and Keith on a dreary day in March, 1920, to rent the farm of Wesley Clement. Looking from the train window toward the coulee they exclaimed "What a place to come to farm," not having seen the land on which they were to live.

Some years later the land owned by Mr. Pound was for sale, following the fatal accident of Mr. Pound caused by collision with a train in Donalda. They bought the place which had also been the site of the Harker Post Office. The old log building was still standing and was used for a garage for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. McLellan enjoyed the farm until they died at the ages of 87 and 86 respectively.

Ross, Andy and Wilmer are deceased. Keith is presently living in Bashaw and has two sons: David of Erskine, Gordon of Stettler, and one daughter, Donna (Mrs. Leicht) of Bashaw.

C. B. Murphy

Mr. Murphy homesteaded on the S.E. $\frac{1}{2}$ 14-41-19-W4. He was married to Mr. Dewitt's daughter. They also moved to Donalda, where Mr. Murphy operated a drug and novelty store, which included an old-fashioned "Ice Cream Parlor". He later put in a line of groceries.

Three children were born to this union, Dale of Ontario, Faye Huff of Calgary, and Ella Campbell of Vancouver. Mrs. Murphy died at an early age and Mr. Murphy's mother assisted in raising the children.

The Nixon Family

by Dale Nixon

I was born and raised in the Byemoor area and my wife, formerly Carol Bates was raised in the Craigmyle district. We were united in marriage on April 21, 1972, in St. George's Catholic Parish, Hanna, Alberta. After residing in the Calgary and Brownfield areas until the spring of 1974, we moved to the Donalda area (being employed by Mr. Willie Christians). While working on the Christians family farm the opportunity arose to purchase the former "Bill Steinhoff" farm. We moved to our newly purchased farm on June 10, 1974. At this time we had two children, Shannon Lee, and Noel Dale, and we were expecting our third child. On July 19, 1974 our second son Aaron Kyle was born in Stettler General Hospital and on February 26, 1976 our third son Ryan Owen was born in Bashaw General Hospital.

We were engaged in grain farming and in 1975 we began dairying, shipping industrial milk to Red Deer.

Since March 23, 1979 my brother Wayne and wife Lorie have joined us in a joint dairy operation. They have two children Kent Robert, age four years and Calvin Charles age two years. They have purchased the former Rumitsch quarter.

We are all proud to call Donalda and district "home".

Nils Norblad

Mr. Norblad farmed the N.W. 22-14-19-W4 for a short time. He was a blacksmith by trade and in conjunction with his own work of farming and helping farmers who needed horses shod, he assisted August Johnson, the Donalda blacksmith.



Nick Pounds threshing with a Rumely 2 cylinder — 1922. (notice extension lugs.)

James Pound

The Pound family moved to the S.W. 24-41-19-W4 where the Harker Post Office had been at one time. Mr. Pound was well equipped with horses and machinery as he had worked in heavy construction previously. He had been assisting in the building of a portion of the railroad some place in British Columbia.

The family consisted of his wife, sons Tom, Nick, and James Jr., daughters Loretta, Lucy and Mae.

After Mr. Pound's tragic death in Donalda, where he was struck by a train, the family moved to different parts of the country. All are deceased except Lucy who now lives in Florida.

Walter Repp

Mr. Repp bought Joe Smith's homestead — namely N.W. 2-41-19-W4. He lived and farmed there for many years with his wife and family, daughters Hilda of Courtenay, British Columbia; Dora of Stettler; and son Erwin of Stettler. Mr. and Mrs. Repp later moved to a farm on the western outskirts of Stettler where they lived until Mr. Repp's passing. Mrs. Repp now lives with her daughter, Dora, in Stettler.

Colin Smith

Mr. Smith homesteaded on the N.W. 1/2 22-41-19-w4. He was very interested in horses and broke many saddle horses for neighbors. He did not stay on his place very long as he suffered from ill health. He spent the last years of his life with friends, the Graf-funders, who had homesteaded a few miles north of his place...

Joe Smith

Joe Smith homesteaded N.W. 2-41-19-W4. He and his sister Ellen lived there a short time only, then sold the place to Walter Repp.

Mr. W. Steinhoff

The Steinhoffs, came to Alberta in 1908. After helping their son W.C. put up his buildings, they spent the remainder of the summer working on their place and taking care of the stock that had been bought in the spring.

They built their own house on the N.E. 16-41-19-w4. They also fenced a small plot which was to have been used as a burial ground; this was the custom in Germany where they had emigrated from many years before. Mr. W. died before 1923 and was buried in the Donalda Cemetery. She went to California with the W. C. Steinhoffs and passed away there, so their little plot was never used.

W. C. Steinhoff

Mr. W. C. Steinhoff, his father and mother, the W. Steinhoff's, came from Fesseden, North Dakota in the spring of 1908. Mr. Klemme Sr. also accompanied them. Mr. W. C. Steinhoff filed on N.E. 10-41-



Neighbors: Mr. Klemme, W. C. (Sims) Steinhoff, Mrs. Klemme and Mrs. Chris Steinhoff.



Christian Steinhoff
1837 ~ 1918



W.C. (Chris) Steinhoff
1871 ~ 1952



W.C. (Bill) Steinhoff
1900 - 1976



Gordon Wm. Steinhoff
1933 -



Ronald G. Steinhoff
1953 -



Charis M. Steinhoff
1976 -

Six generations of Steinhoffs living in Donalda area since 1908.

19-w4; Mr. W. Steinhoff of N.E. 16-41-19-w4; and Mr. Klemme Sr. on S.W. 15-41-19-w4. They put up a set of buildings on the W. Steinhoff place S.W. 15-41-19-w4, which he had bought from the C.N.R.

Mr. Klemme and W. C. Steinhoff returned to North Dakota to take the crop off that farm and then bring their families to the new land. They managed to live through the winter in different places, then in the spring of 1909, each built on their own place.

The Steinhoff family consisted of sons William and Ernest, and daughters Emma and Elizabeth.



Off for a day's shopping in 1919. Mr. and Mrs. Chris Steinhoff and Elizabeth.

Four more daughters were born in Canada; Alberta, Wilhamena (known as Pat), Elsie, and Dorothy. Elizabeth died at 16 years of age after coming in contact with diphtheria on a visit to relatives at Trochu; Dorothy died at two years of age.

They farmed there until 1923 when W. C. Steinhoff took his wife, mother, and the four girls to California. Mr. and Mrs. Steinhoff returned to Canada, built a nice little home just one-half mile west of the Up-To-Date School where they lived until their passing.

William Steinhoff (Bill)

When Mr. W. C. Steinhoff left the farm — S.W. 15-41-19-w4 in 1923 and moved to California, Wm. continued farming. He married Itha Green in 1923. There were four children; Doreen, who died of erysipelas at 10 months; Margaret Kumm of Erskine; Gordon of St. Paul and Howard of High River.

Wm's main interest was grain farming, Hereford cattle and pigs. In 1961 he turned over the farm to Howard and moved to Donalda. Wm. served on the Village Council for nine years, taking a keen interest in the welfare and activities of the Village. In 1974 Howard sold the farm to Dale Nixon.

Ernest Steinhoff

The second son of William Christian Steinhoff was born at Fessenden, North Dakota. At the age of four years he emigrated to Alberta with his parents in 1908. As a child and a young man he was a lover of the outdoor life—hunting, trapping, horse back riding and taking part in all kinds of sports.



Minnie Fitzpatrick with her daughter Verlie and son-in-law Ernie Steinhoff on their 50th wedding anniversary.

In 1922 he moved to his dad's homestead — the N.E. ¼-10-41-19-w4 to start farming for himself. He farmed with horse drawn machinery. Very few people had tractors at that time. Ernie's first tractor was a steel wheeled 1530 International which was used extensively for brushing and breaking up more farm land.

Ernie, with his neighbors helped build the country roads with horse-drawn plows, slips and later graders. Their wages went toward land taxes.

In 1928 Ernie married Verlie Fitzpatrick. They continued farming. They had one son, Allan. In 1930 the dry years hit the country. There was little rain, strong winds and terrible dust storms. This weather lasted for several years and this era was called the dirty thirties. Seed was sown every spring but due to the lack of snow and rain the yields were from 3 to 5 bushels per acre.

The price of farm produce dropped to practically nothing. Wheat 20-30¢ per bushel, hogs \$2.00 per head, cows \$5.00 and less. However with a few pigs, milk cows, chickens, turkeys, hunting and trapping fur bearing animals we were able to buy the very necessary groceries, clothing, etc. Land taxes could not be paid. Those that had cars put them up on blocks, there was not enough money to buy gas, tires, licence, etc.

The farmers went back to the horse and buggy days, others made what was called the Bennett Buggy, others used the wagon for means of travel.

The farmers never gave up, there was always hope for a brighter future and it came in the 1940's. With good crops, Ernie was able to improve his farm with a new barn, new power machinery, a new combine instead of the old threshing machine with which Ernie had threshed for many neighbors over the years. In 1952 a new home with water, electricity and



Ernie and Allan Steinhoff with their prize team. Topped the horse sale at \$400 in 1945.

all modern conveniences was built. More land was purchased.

Ernie, Verlie and Allan took a very active part in all Community Activities and Organizations. The social life of the Community consisted mostly of dances, Box Socials and the Christmas program at the Up-to-Date School.

A very fine herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle was built up over the years, later they were crossed with Charolais.

Ernie and Verlie's son, Allan, took over the farm and they retired to Bashaw to a new home in 1976. In December of 1978 they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

The Allan Steinhoff Story

Allan, the only son of Ernie and Verlie Steinhoff, was born at the Stettler Hospital and has resided in the Up-to-Date district of Donalda all his life. He took his public schooling at the rural Up-to-Date School, his high school at Donalda and a two-year course in Agriculture at the Vermilion School of Agriculture in 1952-53 and 1953-54.

In 1955, Allan, with a partner, Eric Hjorth bought the Vikse Brothers General Store in Donalda calling it the A & E General Store. He also ventured into the A. P. Vending business as a full-time operator for twenty years. During this time he was a director of the Alberta Music Operators Association for seven years.

In 1963 he married Shirley Ross of Forestburg. In 1976 he sold his vending business and took over the management of the family farm. Shirley and Allan have been very active in all community affairs; Shirley a teacher at Donalda Public School for several years and is still on the staff as a substitute teacher. They have three children; Bradley, Beverley and Sandra, all residing on the family farm.

Mr. Turkelson

Mr. Turkelson bought the N.W. 3-41-19-w4. He lived by himself and farmed in a small way. His life ended suddenly and tragically. He started out the door one day to shoot a prairie chicken, a bird which was a favourite and convenient meat for settlers. He accidentally dropped his gun, which discharged, wounding his leg. He was too badly injured to go to a neighbour for help, and when found, had died due to loss of blood.

Ernest Elmont and Laura Viola Ullman and Family

Records show that early in 1906 Ernest Elmont Ullman, aged 25 years, applied for a homestead

entry. He then returned to Fairmont, North Dakota. During the years that followed, he and his wife Laura Viola (Scott) aged 24 years, saved their money and prepared to take up residence in their new log house that Ernest had made arrangements to be built and had sent money for supplies. Believing all was in readiness, Ernest came ahead to place the furniture and to 'break' the pair of colts he had sent money to purchase.

Upon arriving, he was dismayed to find that the house was not built and the colts not purchased. However, undaunted he began to prepare for his family's arrival, and on the appointed date, March 7, 1907, he drove his newly acquired team of oxen to Stettler to meet the train. He was worried. He was afraid the appearance of the over sized creatures would terrify his young city wife and two little sons: Irvin Elmont — two years and three months, and Lyle — one year and one-month. In the joy and relief of family reunion, the method of transportation went unnoticed. The security that her husband's presence provided was all that Laura needed. She was tired but content as she and the two little boys were settled.



Irwin Ullman — 5½ years old with his slate starting out for school.

She watched the luggage as it was piled on the stoneboat, and so began the journey to the N.E. ¼-24-41-19-W4.

Early in June, 1907, a baby girl, Verda Mary Etta, was born in the new sod house. Not long afterwards the family of five moved into the new log house. The oxen and stoneboat had been replaced by Dick and a four-wheeled vehicle. By this time, Laura had become so accustomed to the slow, low method of travel that she was actually terrified to trust herself and the children to the speed and luxury of a horse and buggy.

Many were the good times the young, new homesteaders had with neighbors, relatives and friends. Since all were enduring the same type of hardships and privations, complaining was of little use. Neighbors helped each other, visited and provided their own entertainment and Christmas celebrations, concerts and dances were fun for all. The three young Ullmans grew up believing that there was only one real Santa Claus and that was the one they had seen at the Harker Christmas party. Their father agreed. The Ullman children also remember the huge Christmas party in their home and the big tasty log house that their mother had made and filled with goodies so that everybody's child could have a share.

Always a hard worker, Ernest willingly helped with the new coal mine, and the building and maintenance of a school house. Irvin at the age of five and one-half was needed to make up the required number of pupils and so he became a student in the first class held in the Up-To-Date school. By the time the three Ullman children were old enough to attend school, Ernest and family had left the homestead and moved to Donalda. There he became an operator for the railroad. He built a house and the family settled down and in March, 1912, a daughter Thais Viola was born.

Shortly afterwards the Ullman Family moved to a Grapefruit farm near Jacksonville, Florida. While learning the art of growing fruit, Ernest earned money as a railroad operator. Although a home was quickly established and the two boys attended school, no one adjusted to the climate and exactly one year later the Ullmans returned to Donalda. Ernest again worked as an agent for the railway, but soon accepted a transfer to Warden, Alberta, and the family moved to join him. Ernest purchased a farm which later Irvin farmed.

During the years that followed Ernest and Laura lived at Lousana and later at Heisler. Ernest retired as an agent of the C.N.R. in May, 1946 and died July, 1946. Laura, bereaved and unsettled, finally bought

a little house in Stettler; later moving to Edmonton for a year, a couple of years in Innisfail and then back to Edmonton. She passed away November, 1962, and was laid to rest beside Ernest in the Innisfail cemetery.

Irvin, who farmed in the Stettler and Red Willow area, died February 6, 1969, predeceased by his wife Rita. Irvin's older son Ernest and his wife Joan, Dianne (Ullman) Johnston, Duanne and Darlene, live in Edmonton. His second son Kenneth, wife Dorothy and two daughters; Lois (Ullman) Anson, and Donna live in Calgary.

Lyle and wife Kathleen have moved from the Innisfail area and have retired and now live at Winfield, British Columbia. His older daughter Beulah Ann and husband John Addicott, daughter Heather and son Ross, live in Victoria. His younger daughter, Donna Lee (Curtis) Radke and husband, live in Red Deer as do her sons and daughters, Gary and wife, Terry, Kevin, Donald, Leeanne and their son Kriss. Lyle's son Lyle Lamont, lives in Innisfail.

Verda was active as a teacher, A.Y.W.C.A. worker, a church worker and is now retired and interested in writing and lives in Edmonton.

Thais, after an active life as a teacher, community leader and worker in the Alberta Nursery, is now retired and lives in Bowden and is active in painting and ceramics. Her husband Carl Berggren, died May, 1971. Her daughter Doreen and husband Mike Kot, and daughters Joanne, Jennifer and Tayha live in Calgary. Her son Edward and wife Diane live in Bowden with their children Chris, Cody, Carol and Cathy.

And so the young couple, Ernest and Laura, who were born and raised in Iowa, U.S.A., also lived in Minnesota and North Dakota, on a homestead at Harker; on a farm at Warden; in a railway station at Lousana, Haylakes and Heisler, leave their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to remember, tell and hear again the stories of the good old days with homemade candy, homemade ice cream and homemade good times, good hard work and not so good disappointments.

Mr. Frank Zuehlke

Mr. Frank Zuehlke homesteaded on the S.E. 16-41-19-w4. He served overseas during the First World War and was taken prisoner and held in unhealthy conditions. His health was injured, so his last years were difficult. He passed away about 1926. His brother Jake had lived on his place during his absence, then made his home one-half mile south.

Mr. Jake Zuehlke

Jake Zuehlke's family consisted of wife Josephine, children Fred, young Jake (always knows as Chap), Alice, Nellie, Margaret, Charlie, Bill and Evelyn. Sometime later a niece Evelyn and nephew Thomas, came to live with them following the death of their parents.

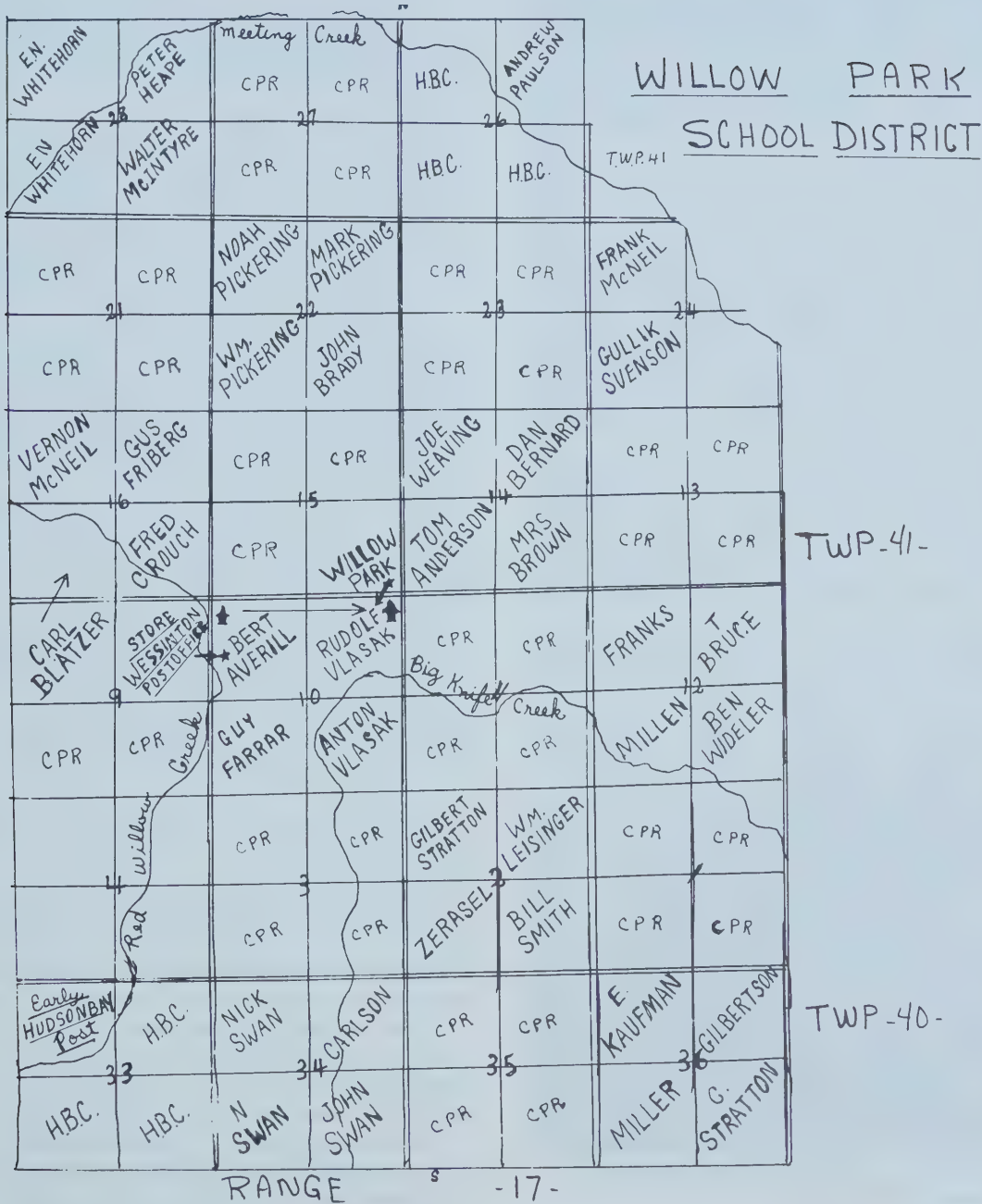
In 1936 Fred, Alice, Chap, Evelyn and Tom with friends Vernon Askeland and Elef Sahlin, went north and homesteaded about twelve miles north-east of Grouard Mission. They moved in the true pioneer fashion with covered wagons, horses, cattle, machinery, etc.

When the second World War broke out, Fred, Tom, Vernon, and Elef enlisted. Fred, Vernon and Elef contacted some unknown disease and died.

Jake stayed on the farm with the remainder of the family until 1947. He sold the farm to Wm. Steinhoff and moved to Falkland, British Columbia. There he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives with their son Bill.

The other children Margaret Rider lives at Bashaw, Charlie lives at Oliver, British Columbia, Nellie at Ponoka, Evelyn at Altario, and Bill at Falkland, British Columbia, as previously stated.

Willow Park School District



William Mason Barber Family

William Barber — born in Viliski, Iowa on Sept. 15th, 1869 and Amy Elvira Harris of Battros, Nebraska born January 1st, 1870, were married in 1890.

They settled in Dexter County, Kansas and while there, twin sons, Lide Mason and Lile Harris were born on September 8th, 1893.

They moved to Pawnee, Oklahoma where they lived for some time and other children that came to join their family were, Elva, Harold, Bessie, John and Dell.

They left Pawnee Oklahoma, and came to Stettler by rail and then to Donalda area in the spring of 1913; except for Elva and her husband Alvie who came to join them the next year.

Will Barbaer homesteaded on S.E. ¼ Sec. 24-41-18, near his brother Irv Barber and his nephews, Lloyd and Clarence.

He busily started to build a home and other buildings to improve on his property, soon he had a two story log home erected and they were comfortably settled.

Bessie and the younger boys were attending school, the older boys worked in the area — helping to break up land, stooking and threshing. They always took time out to be along with the young fellows in the community, playing ball with the Wessington group.

Lide and Lile had a little game of their own that was a bit frustrating for some of the young ladies in the neighborhood. Being identical twins, one would drop in and make a date for a party some where and the other brother would go pick up the young lady,

taking her and enjoying every minute of the evening, and when the party was over he would identify himself. The girls soon caught on and they were checking the fellows before going again.

In December of 1919 the Barbers left their home on the homestead moving into Donalda so Bessie could go to high school. She was interested in sports and played basketball with the high school team. Her team mates were, Itha Green, Geneva and Lenora Olson, Ethel Casebeer and Edna Otteson.

She later married Arthur Vikse of the Donalda (north) area.

In January of 1919 the Barbers had a sad experience. Going out to their homestead they found their home burned to the ground, never knowing how it happened.

Their family all grown and on their own, Will, and Amy decided to go back to the States — first going to Oklahoma and then to Los Molinos, California where they settled. They built again in the country and did some chicken ranching and gardening, with a corn field and a watermelon patch as well as fruit trees. They enjoyed the warmer climate.

Gradually working toward retirement and an easier life style — Will passed away in 1936 at sixty-seven years. With most of their family around this same area by now, Amy lived on enjoying them and her many friends until her passing in 1947 at seventy-seven years of age.

Lide and **Rebecca** (nee Larson) were married Jan. 1st, 1918, and first settled on a farm owned by Lew Halseth. Lide worked in the mine during the winters and for farmers in the summer months.

They later moved to the mine where Rebecca cooked for miners and coal haulers, while Lide dug coal. In Nov. 1919 they lost a baby son with whooping cough and pneumonia. In 1920 and 1923 Viola and Fern were born and in 1927, Lide, Rebecca and girls moved to California where a son Marvin was born in 1928.

In 1929 Rebecca passed away and the three children went back to Alberta to live with their grandparents.

In March of 1973 Lide passed away after a lingering illness. His wife Daisy is retired and lives in Red Bluff near her two daughters, another daughter is in Arkansas.

Lile and **Gunil** (nee Paulson) settled in Silverton Oregon and then on to Los Molinos, Calif., later moving into Red Bluff, Calif. where Lile was employed with the State Highways Department.

They have a family of seven children, Billy, Melvin, Lucille, Raymond, Hurley, Ileen and Louis, all married with children and grandchildren — in-



The Will Barber Family 1963. L to R: Harold, Lile, Dell, Lide, John and Bessie in the front.



John and Harold Barber with A. J. Platz horses in 1921.

cluding one set of twins. They are all living throughout Northern Calif. in various occupations.

Life passed away after a lengthy illness on May 14th, 1971.

Gunil is retired in their home in Red Bluff enjoying all her family and friends around her.

Elva and **Alvie Platz** remained in Alberta, settled out in the Winfield area. Elva passed away after a lingering illness, leaving her husband Alvie and nine children.

Harold — lived some time in the Winfield, Yeoford vicinity, before retiring to Orland, Calif., after his wife Mickey passed away. He has one step son, Earl with a family at Terrace, B.C., and one step son, Ernie deceased.

Bessie — and Arthur also went to Los Molinos, Calif. settling in town where Bessie was soon established with the Telephone Co. there, operating the switchboard from her home, which she did for many years. They had two children, Maurice (who was missing in action in World War II) and Carol of Los Angeles.

Arthur passed away in the late 1960's; Bessie is retired in their home in Los Molinos.

John and **Nonie** have also retired to Red Bluff. They have two children with families in the near vicinity so likewise are able to enjoy their grandchildren and families.

Dell — made his home in Bonners Ferry, Idaho, he also had two children whom he raised after losing his wife Grace when the children were quite small. His son now owns and operates his father's tire shop, and his daughter Amy resides in Texas with her family, so Dell spends his retirement between Texas, Bonners Ferry and Arizona where he and his wife enjoy the winters.

The Bernard Story

Jean Bernard Blacklock

My grandfather Daniel Bernard first came to the Donalda area in 1902 when he and four neighbors



Cyril Bernard (centre) with friends deer hunting.

from South Dakota hired a team, wagon and guide to take them east from Ponoka as far as the Battle River. Because the water was high that year they couldn't cross. They decided to take up some of the remaining homesteads on this side of the river and also buy some C.P.R. land. That fall the family, with their effects, moved from South Dakota to a rented farm at Morningside. During that winter grandfather and the neighbors made several trips to the homesteads with supplies, lumber, etc. Grandfather built a small lumber house and log barn on his homestead and in April, 1903, my grandmother Ina Bernard, my father Cyril and his little sister Lorna along with grandfather came by wagon to the homestead. The trip took three days from Morningside. The third night out they stayed at the Bob Reid Ranch between Buffalo Lake and what is now Donalda. The next day took them to their homestead and their new home.

Their neighbors were the Pickerings, the McIntyres, the Brownes and the Averills, who had settled there the year before. Also close by the Whitehorn and Fischer Ranch but the next year it was bought out by Mr. Dickey and for a good many years was known as the Dickey Ranch.

The next summer — 1904, the little district school of Willow Park was formed and it was to this school that our whole family went to from time to time. It also served as a community center as all the card parties and dances were held there. The first post office of the district was granted to Mr. B. W. Averill and was called Wessington.

The first church services were also held in the Averill home where their daughter Hattie (Later Mrs.



Cyril and Esther Bernard, 1962.

John Brady) played the family organ for the church services.

Lorna Bernard married Ernest Dearing and moved to Vancouver. My father, Cyril, married Esther Henderson of Hastings Coulee (Forestburg) in 1918 and lived and farmed on the home farm for many years. About this time my grandfather and grandmother Bernard moved to Vancouver.

My father took great pride in his herd of registered Hereford cattle and my mother in turn, took pride in the beautiful flowers and abundant gardens she planted and tended. Our neighbors were the Halseths, Paulsons, Quesseths, Fribergs, Vlasaks, Larsons and Northeys. The family left the farm for a short time in the middle 20's but returned in 1931 to rebuild the farm home that had burned down.

Some of the things I remember of those days on the farm are: the hot dry summers, berry picking, gathering eggs, community picnics, and homemade ice-cream, the once a summer trip to Buffalo Lake for a day of swimming; Christmas dinners with the Bently family, taking lunch out to the field in threshing time, picking wild crocus on the coulee rim, the very cold winters, riding old Pinto to school, going by sleigh to the Willow Park Christmas Concert and chocolate drops from Vikses' store in Donalda.

We moved from the farm to Edmonton in the fall of 1938 and my father rented the farm to Jesse Helfer. Later Estella and Lawrence Helfer came and lived on the farm for several years before moving over the road to the old Pickering homestead where they still live. Many years of change and owners have left our old farm home looking very lonely and forlorn. Time changes many things. Father died in 1968 and mother this past February, 1979 at 82 years.

My brother Gerry Bernard lives in Edmonton — a retired civil engineer and Donald Bernard, also a civil engineer, died in 1971 at age 50 years. My sister Aileen Leroy and I, Jean, both live in Edmonton. The family keeps growing; twelve grandchildren and now four great-grandchildren.

Anna Bruce History

My parents lived in Hay Springs, Nebraska where they farmed and raised cattle. One day they made up their minds to have a holiday so they sold everything they couldn't take with them and my father rigged up a covered wagon and a double seated Top-Buggy for the trip. Mother made butter, preserved in two-gallon earthen-ware crocks and also made some dried beef which we relished in our sandwiches. She processed pork to put in earthen ware crocks. First she browned the meat in a hot pan on top of the stove, then lay the meat in a large bread pan to put into the oven to finish. She then put the meat in a hot crock on top of the stove and poured hot lard over the finished pork. It kept for three months without refrigeration. After the sale they were on their way, leaving Hay Springs June 10, 1902. Dad drove the wagon team and mother the buggy team and a saddle pony carried the saddle all the way of our travels.

Besides our own family, Mothers sister and family, John and Anna Kaufman and family — Ernest, Mamie, Joe and Bill — and a bachelor friend of Dad's, Ben Weidler, all came with us. We had two dogs that travelled with us. Everyone enjoyed it all and had a joyful time together.

There were only prairie trails, no graded roads then except in the mountains. We travelled mostly along the rail roads which were the most travelled in those days, stopping to feed the horses wherever there was good grass and water at noon and night. They would stake one or two horses and the others would stay at camp without being tethered. We had our lunch while the horses were resting and once a week we would stop where there was lots of water and Mother and my Aunt would do the washing, ironing and bread baking while the men would go fishing.



Anna Bruce and John Cassidy.

Our first journey was through the corner of South Dakota then clear across Wyoming. It was then ranching country and cattle roamed and grazed all over those rolling hills as far as you could see. They were really wild and if they saw anyone on foot, one of them would bellow and the rest would all run to the spot the sound came from. Houses were from six to ten miles apart. Then we came to the North East corner of Montana and travelled through Yellowstone Park where we saw the Geysers, Paint Pots, Waterfalls, etc. We really enjoyed all the beautiful scenery. We then moved through Idaho's irrigated valleys where they farmed and grew orchards. It was the first fruit we had ever seen. There was also lots of sage brush and a forty mile desert in Idaho, forty miles across and one hundred miles around, so the men inquired about this. They were told that it was dangerous to cross but said that if you do go that way, fill everything with water for the horses and carry feed. The men decided to cross it, for one hundred miles around was a long way. They were advised not to start till after 4 P.M. as it was very hot in the desert. The trails were very dim and the sand was seven or eight inches deep. It was still hot at midnight so the men stopped then to feed, water and rest the horses. They got very tired and the dogs even got so tired we had to take them in the wagon. It was spooky in that desert. The trees were around ten to twelve feet tall and twisted into all shapes and forms. Everybody was happy to get through and see green grass again. It took us from four P.M. till twelve noon the next day to get through that desert. We travelled close to Salt Lake City which we could see from the distance, and on to Pendleton, Oregon,

Baker City then to Walla Walla Washington, through the corner of Idaho and finally camped at Clear Water River opposite Lewistown. My father had taken ill so we camped there until he was able to go on again. We reached Uniontown, Washington in August where we settled for the winter and we went to school. The Kaufman family also stayed for the winter. My folks got a house in town and Dad found work at a farmers.

In the spring they heard from Mothers sister, Mrs. Wm. Smith in Alberta, Canada, (then known as the Northwest Territories) asking us to come there. She told us about the country and that we could get 160 acres of land as a homestead for only \$10.00 so we all packed up again and came to Canada. We gathered up the horses which had been grazing in a large pasture that had grass all winter and with the Kaufmans and Ben Weisler we made our way to Canada and to our new home.

We crossed the border into Canada at Cascade, British Columbia, then on to Nelson where we went on the Moyie Ferry across to Crows Nest Pass, then on to Calgary by train. It was late into the night when we arrived in Calgary so us youngsters slept on the seats in the depot, and the mothers sat up to wait till daylight. In the morning Mother went to a hotel for some sandwiches for our breakfast, then we boarded the next train for Lacombe where the men folks had the wagon and horses unloaded from the freight train and ready for the final journey. We arrived in the Donalds district where the Smiths were settled in August, 1903. In September, 1903, Uncle John and my father went to Red Deer to file for homesteads. Father filed on a homestead which was located on the banks of the Battle River, 16 miles from Cora Lynn, now known as Red Willow. Our nearest town was Lacombe, 75 miles from our place.

Our first shelter was a building made from rails and hay which was good for sleeping but not cooking. The cooking was done on our camp stove outside. We used this until my father could cut enough logs for our house. When he had the logs up he had to go to Lacombe for lumber for the floor and roof. (Later on this buildings was used as a barn). The crevices between the logs were plastered with a mixture of clay and hay. The shack had 2 windows and my father made a table and benches from the lumber left from the building. It was our only furniture except for the cupboards Mother made by stacking apple boxes one on top of the other and covered with curtains in front. They bought a cook stove for the winter which was used to prepare meals and kept the house warm. They also dug a square hole, 12 feet deep for a well.

In 1904 a lot of people cut spruce logs and when there was enough for a saw mill, Mr. Stratton, our neighbor, had Mr. Meadows and Mr. Little from Lacombe who owned a saw mill, help them set up. Mr. Stratton had a steam engine which they used for the saw mill. My Uncle, Will Smith was a railroad engineer so did the engineering. My father, Theo Bruce was the saw setter who got 75¢ per day, the engineer got \$1.00 per day and the log rollers got 50¢ per day. It doesn't seem like much but everybody was pleased to get a little money to buy groceries, etc.

Shortly after that, Dad built an addition to our log shack, and our first school house was built in the summer of 1904. There was no church nearby so church services were held in homes.

In 1904 my father broke a few acres with a walking plow and three horses for a little patch of land for oats and potatoes and a garden for mother. She planted a large garden and we stored the vegetables in a root cellar where they kept till mid summer of the next year. The season was much shorter in those early days and wheat would not get ripe. Dad seeded oats by broadcasting the seed then harrowing the land. The first year was hard on the settlers but they had a lot of vegetables stored after that. Our meat came from rabbits and prairie chickens. Our dear neighbor, Mrs. Stratton, gave mother a hen and 24 chicks so we had eggs and chickens for the winter. In the spring and fall two or three men would go together to Lacombe or Wetaskiwin to get a supply of groceries, a trip that took four or five days to make by wagon and horses. It was a long road then, winding around a lot of big sloughs along prairie trails. There was no fencing in those days. Everybody was very sociable, thoughtful and kind and worked together when help was needed.

We had our entertainment in the school houses. We had Literary nights, spelling matches, card parties, box socials, shadow socials, dances and Christmas trees. Anyone who had a guitar or violin etc., played and a collection would be taken up for the musicians. What money was made through social events was used to buy a hardwood floor, a piano, lamps etc. for our school house.

Mr. Avril had the post office in Wessington, N.W.T. in those early days, and mail was delivered to there. When Mr. Avril left, Mr. Stratton took over the Post Office and later on we got a mail route and mail was delivered twice a week by Walter Solomonson who was the mail carrier. That same mail route still continues today.

I will never forget the first picnic we attended. We had to go in a wagon and the mosquitos were so bad in those early days that Dad had to make a

smudge in a pail and wire it to the tongue of the wagon to protect the horses as the mosquitos would swarm around the horses like a cloud. The mothers prepared a lovely dinner for the picnics and we would spread a nice tablecloth on the grass. Then the families of our neighbors would unload the dinner baskets to have dinner together. We would have baseball games, pony races and boys and girls foot races, and in the evening we would have a bowery dance on an outside floor. We were always looking forward to those days as we didn't have movies or other entertainment. Our neighbors then were the Bernards, Pickerings, McIntyres, Avrils, Bradys, Swensons, Fribergs, Swans, Strattons, Kaufmans, Smiths, Elsworths, Hydes, Leisingers, Halseths, DuBois, Careys, Browns, Woods, Vallets, Joneses and Dickeys.

In later years we would go to rodeos. Laurence Bruce and Jack Hillman put on rodeos in 1924, 1925 and 1926 where the Big Knife Creek runs into the Battle River. It was an ideal place for such an event. Professional cowboys from everywhere took part in the rodeo and Laurence used to ride broncs in those days. Later on he bought broncs and provided horses for the larger rodeos. When Winston and Duane Bruce, Laurence and Anne's sons, were old enough to ride they took up that profession and won many trophies, in the United States and Canada. Winston is now the Rodeo Arena Director for the Calgary Stampede. Clayton took up as his profession, Land Surveying and Duane became a sheet and metal mechanic.

Laurence H. Bruce

An early settler in the Donalda District, he came as a boy by covered wagon. He homesteaded land south east eighteen miles on the Battle River and it was here he ranched. Laurence was a rodeo rider and



Sisters: Bertha Bruce, Dena Smith, Anna Kaufman.

supplied bucking horses for years to such rodeos as Calgary, Stettler, Ponoka, Hardisty and Bruce. He also held early rodeos on the Battle River and at Brittan fair grounds. He brought in some of the first purebred stallions to the district. Dexter — a Suffolk Punch to sire work stock, and Exworthy — a standard bred, to sire saddle stock.

Laurence moved across the river in 1947 and carried on his ranching and farming. He started the Hastings Coulee 4-H Beef Club, was club leader and did a lot of community work.

He moved to Calgary in 1957 and was brand inspector at the Calgary Stock Yards until his death.

His wife Ann is a registered nurse. His son Clayton is a land surveyor. Son Winston is a rodeo rider and also Rodeo Manager for the Calgary Stampede. Duane is also a Rodeo rider and tin smith.

The Thorvald Bolding Story

In 1934, Thorvald Bolding and his wife rented the farm of Ernest Carlson in the Willow Park area. In 1937 they rented Mrs. Seymour's farm until 1949. We bought the farm north of Bawlf. Thorvald Bolding passed away in 1956. We have six children. Kenneth married Crystel Torgerson and they live at Camrose. Connie married Loel Olsen and they live at Castlegar, British Columbia. Willis married Bernice Campbell — they live north of Bawlf. Margaret married Bent Pedersen — they live east of Camrose. Diane married Elmer Bruce — and is living north of Bawlf. Gerald (Jerry) and his wife, Carol Jones are residing in Edmonton. They were all born in Stettler except Willis, who was born in Mrs. Murrats nursing home in Donalda.

They all went to school in Donalda except Diane and Jerry.

Kenneth was holidaying with Don Larson. When they went to get the cows, Ken found what he thought to be a round calendar case. He broke it in half, it smelled awful so he threw it in the ditch. Donald came behind and decided it would be a good target to shoot at. He put it on a post and shot. It turned out to be explosive and shook the town of Donalda, three miles away.

Gustaf Friberg

by Oscar Friberg

Gustaf and Martin Friberg came to Wetaskiwin in 1895 looking for land, and they found some to their liking, in the Edberg area. They stayed there a short time, and then went back to Granite Falls, Minnesota to sell their property and belongings. In 1897 they immigrated to Canada, and Martin filed on a home-



Gust Friberg family, on the McNeil place 1913.



Lennart, Oscar and Lydia Friberg, 1913.



Sunday School Class 1918 (taken at Fribergs). Gunild Paulson, Lydia Friberg, Mabel Loney; Lila Swan, Oscar Friberg, Lennart Friberg, Alf Loney, Elvin Swan, Minnie Paulson and Esther Friberg.

stead between Edberg and Ferintosh. They brought their Mother, Dad and one of their sisters with them. Their Father, Lars, Friberg, died in 1898 and they buried him on the homestead as there was no cemetery in the area.

In 1901 or 1902 Gustaf took a homestead south east of Donalda in the Willow Park area, and he and his brother operated a cattle and sheep ranch. It was open range in those days. My grandmother Annalisa Friberg came to the homestead with them. Later we transferred my grandfather's remains to the Spruce Coulee Cemetery (about 1912). My father, Gus Friberg, married Selma Olson in 1904 or 1905. Four children were born to them; Lydia and Esther, Leonard and Oscar. We received our education in Willow Park School.

Esther married Charlie Price. They resided on the McNeil place before moving to Saskatchewan. They raised a family of four boys and one girl.

We had an abundance of spruce trees on our land and Alfred Hestness helped us construct a sawmill. Conrad Halseth helped us in the beginning, showing us how to operate it. We then ran it on our own, rebuilding it as the need arose. We continued sawing lumber for a period of ten to fifteen years.

My parents as well as Lydia and Lennart have passed away.

I still reside on the home farm with my two children Carl and Edwina. Carl does the farming now, the third generation of Fribergs to work this land, and the fourth generation to live here.

The Christian Halseth Story

They came to the Willow Park district in 1906. They had seven children; Lewis, Conrad, Minnie, Nettie, Agnes, Walter and Mable. They spent the hard winter of 1906 in a small shack.

Lewis, Walter and Conrad took homesteads in



Lou Halseth, Nettie Halseth, Mrs. Chris Halseth, Chris Halseth, Walter Halseth and Bernt Hestness. Seated: Agnes Halseth. In front of the Swensen homestead house.



Mr. and Mrs. Christian L. Halseth.

the Willow Park district and all farmed there until retiring. In the early years, Mr. and Mrs. Halseth had a store in their home, also the mail came to their place.

The boys did custom sawing lumber, and then got a threshing outfit and did custom threshing.

Lewis married Rosie Goransrud and Minnie married Olaf Quesseth, Conrad married Agnes Hagen. Nettie married Lee Dickey and Agnes married Bryan Pickering. Walter married Margaret Hamilton (a teacher) and Mable married Alfred Hestness and boarded several of the teachers of Willow Park. Mrs. Halseths main ambition was to have a feed of new



Walter Halseth as a child, Mrs. Chris Halseth, Conrad Halseth, Lou Halseth, Chris Halseth and Berndt Hestness in the boat that the people in the Willow Park district used to cross the Battle River in 1911 and 1912. This boat was also used to travel up the river while hunting rats.

potatoes, peas and carrots and fried spring chicken for the teacher before the school term ended in June.

Mrs. Halseth passed away in July, 1941 and Mr. Halseth in December, 1944. Now, in 1979 there are only Walter and Nettie still living of this family.

Mr. and Mrs. Halseth also raised Inga Paulson. When she was three months old, her mother was very ill so she asked the Halseths to take her. She was adopted and went by Inga Halseth. Inga married John Miller of Red Willow, later moving to Bashaw.

Agnes (Hagen) Halseth

In 1929, Conrad Halseth married Agnes Hagen. We farmed in Willow Park district, where the C. L. Halseth family had lived for years. In 1930, Loverna was born in Gadsby. This was the beginning of the depression, dry years followed. We had dust storms that year, could almost scoop the dust out of the house with a shovel. The days were almost as dark as the night, due to dust in the air. However we struggled along for several years with poor crops and low prices.

In 1933 Norris was born. He was born in Donalda at the home of Mrs. Nettie Dickey (his Aunt).

Loverna and Norris attended school in Willow Park from 1 — 9th grade. In 1940, Ross was born.



Conrad and Agnes Halseth Twenty-fifth Anniversary, 1954.

During those years, we had church service at Willow Park, school on Sundays. But later, this was discontinued. Ross started school also in Willow Park, then it was closed, as there weren't enough children left in the community to keep the school open. We boarded Ross in Donalda for 2 years.

In 1953, Loverna married Gordon Dahl, and they rented the farm. We moved into town so Ross could

stay home and go to school. Loverna has 2 sons, and 2 daughters — Darlene, Stanley, Cheryl, and Darrel.

In 1955, Conrad passed away very suddenly.

In 1957, Norris married Carole Huff. They have 3 girls — Gwen, Terry and Kelley. They moved to Calgary, were divorced in 1978.

In 1960, Ross married Gail Fitzpatrick. They have 1 son Ricky and two daughters Loreen and Lona Jean. They are now living in Vermilion.

In 1960, I got employment in Stettler at the Senior Citizens Lodge (Heart Haven Home), as Assistant Matron. I worked there almost 17 years, am now retired.

The Lewis Halseth Story

Lewis C. Halseth came to the Donalda district with his folks in the year 1906. They settled in the Wessington district, 15 miles south and east of Donalda. He was then a young man of eighteen, with his main aim to be a farmer. Before coming to Canada from North Dakota, he had attended Agricultural College in Fargo, North Dakota.

His folks started up a store in their home in Wessington and he helped in it, but he also was interested in carpenter work, so ventured out as a carpenter and worked at this around the Red Willow area. He helped build the Hilberry House. He also played on the Red Willow baseball team and played in their brass band.

When he became old enough to file on a homestead, he did so, across the Battle River and to the north of his home a few miles. He built a shack on it and lived there long enough to prove up, but otherwise it was mostly used as pasture land. He bought a



Lew and Conrad Halseth in baseball uniforms when they played on Red Willow team also horns played in the Red Willow Band (before 1914).

quarter-section of land directly north of his father's homestead and moved the building which had been their store over for a residence, and he batched there. Never being very fond of housework he said with a



Lew Halseth and daughter Myrtle in 1925. Collie dog Topsy, a pup from a litter of the Dubois stock.

twinkle in his eye, he always kept a cat around to keep the dishes cleaned up. He told of the good times they had in the district with house parties, community picnics and baseball games.

On December 14, 1914, he married Rosie Goransrud whose home was in Spruce Coulee, but who at the time was a hired girl for Mrs. Charley Stratton in the Wessington area. They were married in Stettler and made their home in the two room shack where Lewis had been batching. They lived there two years until a baby girl was added to their family. It was August and Cyril Bernard recalled it was raining pitchforks. When Dr. Wall from Donalds went by with his horse and buggy, they knew the communities population was soon to be increased by one. They then bought and moved to the Swenson place, the next quarter section north, which had a log house, built by Mr. Swenson. They lived there until 1920 when they were beginning to think of the inconvenience of their daughter getting to school. By now the school had been moved one mile east of its original site and had become Willow Park. The post office disappeared and the mail came out of Donalds.

They bought land across the corner from the school and also one quarter to the east. The residence was also a log house. This was their home for many years, except for a couple of years, when they lived in Camrose and Lewis did carpenter work.

In December, 1924, their daughter became very ill. It was either scarlet fever or diphtheria, but it was never diagnosed by a doctor. Because of a very swollen throat, she nearly choked to death; but as a result of medication prepared by the druggist, Mr. Ryan, in Donalds, and applied by a throat swab by her parents, she pulled through.



Lew and Rosie Halseth and baby Myrtle in 1917.

This was a bad winter with snow to the top of the fences and temperatures of 40 degrees below zero. They ran out of coal and it was hard to keep the house warm with wood, and the sick child in the house further complicated the situation. Earl McIntyre saved the day by bringing one ton of coal. That was all that a four horse team could manage with the terrible travelling conditions that existed.

Lewis and Rosie were both community minded and belonged to the local organizations — one being U.F.A. One night a gentleman from the Department of Extension came out and showed lantern slides. That gentleman is now Senator Donald Cameron.

Lewis also served as Secretary Treasurer on the School Board and was a councillor in the Municipality of Haig for several years.

The following are some interesting items recorded in the treasurer's report for 1935: Walter Halseth — 2 loads wood \$4.50; Bernice Swan — carrying water — 35 cents. Iona Hankins — carrying water — 45 cents; Kenneth Quesseth — cleaning barn — \$1.00; E. W. Grice hardware — ashpan — \$1.50; Eugene Vallet — carrying water — 48 cents.

Taxes on a quarter section of land recorded under the Local Improvement District in 1906 — \$4.00, 1907 — \$5.60, 1908 — \$6.00, 1913 — \$8.00, and 1916 — \$12.00.

In the year 1935 a tornado struck the farm, which resulted in a very frightening experience. It took a summer kitchen at the back of the house, raised it up and over some trees and landed it on its roof. Rosie was in the house at the time, along with a heavy cast iron range, the cream separator, and hand washing machine. There was a fire in the stove and a boiler of

clothes on the stove. She was found under the tipped over stove, with not even her glasses broken. She was badly shaken and bruised but otherwise alright. The fire was gone, and also all the water from the washer and boiler. Bricks flew off of the chimney and narrowly missed Lewis' head as he was standing at the corner of the house.

They rented their farm to the Hugo Peterson family in 1927 and moved to Camrose and moved back in 1929. They had a sale in 1938 and just rented out the land to Ernest Carlson until he moved to B.C. They then continued to live in Camrose but farmed the land until the spring of 1963 when they sold it.

Rosie Halseth passed away in November, 1963. Lewis continued living in his own home until he became ill in July, 1975, and passed away in October of the same year.

Their daughter Myrtle lives in Edmonton. They had two grandchildren. Gary passed away in 1974 and a granddaughter lives in Winnipeg.

Oscar Hankins Family

Jacob and Elizabeth Hankins, their son Oscar, and a younger daughter Edith came to Alberta from Maxwell, Nebraska, U.S.A., in 1913 by covered wagon — in those days known as an "Immigrant Wagon".

They came up to look this country over and stayed the winter southwest of Red Willow on some land owned by Mrs. Luna. They went back to Maxwell in the spring to sell their farm, returning to Red

Willow area again in August of 1917. This time they came by car, except for Oscar, who at 19 years of age came by train in the box car along with eleven head of horses.

Oscar and the two box cars of their possessions came to Red Willow, where the family was staying at the time on a farm with the John Kerrs.

Oscar's brother Everett, his wife Devilla and their family of three, Jake, Eva and Helma also came into this area in 1917 by car.

In the fall of 1917 Oscar's father, known to all as Jake, purchased 160 acres of land with buildings, two miles north of Botha, now owned by Lester Strandquist.

They farmed here until Jake's passing in May of 1918, at the age of 55 years, so Oscar came home to take over the farm. He had been working as a farm hand in the area. The following year Edith and her husband Roy Sneider of Botha took over the farm, and Oscar went to work for John Kerrs again. A few years later Roy died and the farm was sold. Later Edith and her family (except for Francis who lives at Morrin, Alta.) moved back to the States, where she still resides.

Elizabeth Hankins, Oscar's mother, passed away in 1936, at the age of 69 years.

In 1919, Oscar met Louise Liesinger, a daughter of pioneers Mr. and Mrs. Robert Liesinger, and they were married the following year, July 4, 1920.

They began their life living on the Cap Bagnell homestead along the Meeting Creek. Here their first child was born, a little girl they named Minnie Ann, and due to illness they lost her at six months of age.

Oscar recalls that when he was out riding, looking for his cattle on the range, he was passing near an "Immigrant Wagon" parked along the trail, when he heard calls from a woman in distress. He went to see what he could do to help and found her in labour. There wasn't time to go for more help, so he did what he could, hoping it was all in order, as this was something he'd never done before. So after mother and baby were quite comfortable, he went to get Mrs. Airey, the midwife in that area, to come and check things out for them; she commended him on the fine job he'd done. After a few days the wagon moved on its way towards its destination.

Oscar and Louise then moved to the Ed Carey place, in the Westwoods district. They spent many an enjoyable time at card parties, dances, and picnics.

Oscar was always on his toes when it came to telling a good story. In those days it always helped to be able to laugh and enjoy good times with friends. That's something that hasn't changed; it's still good medicine for the soul.



L-R: Robert, Iona, Clarence, Doug, Louise and Oscar Hankins.

In 1922 another daughter, Iona Mae, came to gladden their home and then in 1925 a son, Robert Charles, known to everyone as "Bob".

Their neighbors here were Kaufmans, Halseths, Vlasaks, Bruces, Smiths and Swans. John Swan and Oscar threshed together for years. After living in Westwoods area for about five years, they returned to Botha where, in 1928, Clarence James was born. They moved back to the Willow Park area soon after.

In 1932, their youngest son was born and at this time the dirty thirties were getting their grip on everything and prices fell to rock-bottom, so money was scarce. Oscar kept his family by cutting mine props from trees off his land and trading them to Muncy's mine for coal as well as to his brother Everett Hankins' mine. He would get ten cents for each prop, eight feet in length and no less than three inches across the top. He would then trade the coal for groceries in Gadsby and other towns.

Their home was made from lumber cut from trees on his land and sawn up at Walter Halseth's sawmill.

Oscar's boys did their share to make a few dollars. Doug was small then but Bob and Clarence would cut Christmas trees and take them to town to sell for a few cents each. In the summer, they caught gophers and sold the tails for a few cents each.

Iona worked out around to help make a few dollars for groceries, and Doug in turn helped when he was older and able.

In 1936, at the time when Louise was recovering from a serious stroke, Oscar decided to take her and the family and make the journey to Vancouver, Washington, where Louise's sister and family were.

However, times were bad there, too, and jobs were just as hard to come by, so after four months they returned to the farm, with Louise much improved. Fred Vlasak had gone with them and returned with them.

However sickness and tragedies are unfortunately a part of life; one never knows what experiences we'll meet up with. One morning, Oscar went over to pick up groceries at Kaufmans, as Joe always brought out to all the neighbors anything they needed from town when he took cream in to the creamery. He knocked on the door, no one answered, so he went up to Smith's. Willard went back with Oscar and found Joe and Bill both dead, asphyxiated by their furnace. Mamie was near death, but because her window was open a bit, was able to survive the tragedy, after a stay in the hospital.

Oscar loved to trade horses and invariably made these trades while at the mines. He found challenge in trading a broken horse for a green or wild one, as

Oscar said "Put him in the outfit and in two years he'd be broken and behave".

Oscar recalls some of the prices he got for grain he sold; for oats he'd get from sixteen to eighteen cents a bushel. He also remembers getting as low as seven dollars for a cow, an average of five or six cents a pound.

The family was mostly grown by now. Iona married Paul Berg and lives near Gadsby on a farm. They have one daughter, Paulette, married to Percy Heer. They have two children Christy and John Paul. They live on the same farmstead as Paulette's parents.

Bob married Betty Elliot of Red Willow and lives at Burton, British Columbia. They have three children: Jim, Judy, and Allen. Jim is married.

Clarence married Jean Brock of Cardston; they farm east of Botha. They have seven children. Debbie married Lucien Anuszewski and they live in Peace River. They have three boys and a girl: Robert, Jason, Shaun, and Leanne. Dale married Irene Van Straten and they live with their two boys and a girl: Wesley, James and Lisa Dawn, at Seven Farms. Helen married Harvey Skow; with their daughter Nadine and son Spencer, they live at Lloydminster. Patsy married Riley Howard and they live at Coronation. They have two daughters: Kathy and Leslie. Barry and Barbara are twins. Barry and Nedra are getting married this fall. Barbara is married to Ken Morton, and they have a daughter, Jamie. John, as yet, is not married.

Doug married Verna Brill of Greencourt and now lives at Kamloops.

Besides their eleven grandchildren, there are fourteen great-grandchildren.

Oscar and Louise sold their farm in 1963, and bought a home in Donalda. In the fall of 1965, they moved to Gadsby on an acreage (34 acres), but came back to their home in Donalda in the fall of 1969, where they still reside.

As they grow older their health has been failing somewhat.

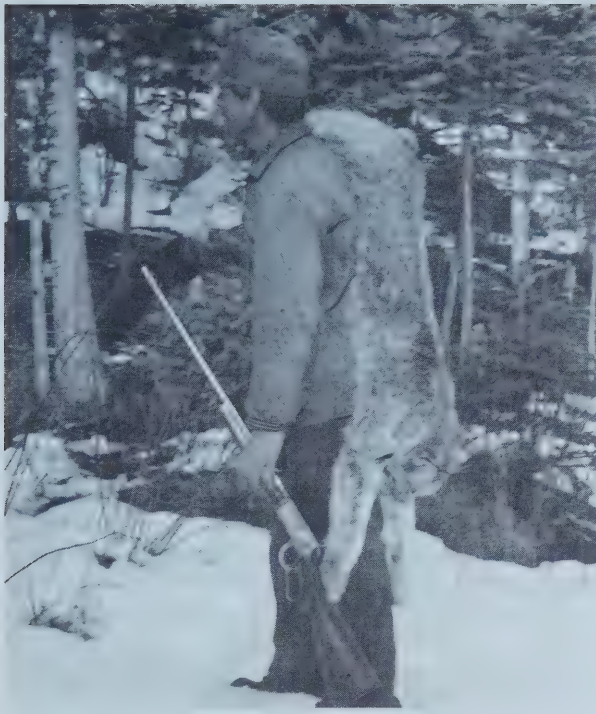
This past summer they celebrated their fifty-ninth wedding anniversary.

They always enjoy their neighbor's visits. Eddie Hestness is a staunch and avid messenger and chore boy for them, which helps them very much.

The Bernt Hestness Family

as told by Eddie Hestness to Dagney Norman

In 1910 Bernt Hestness came from Rockford (near Spokane) Washington to the Willow Park district of Donalda to take up farming. He bought a farm from G. Swenson on the Battle River neighbouring the Lou Halseth and Gus Friberg farms. In 1911 the



Bernt Hestness with lynx, 1915.

Hestness family arrived by train at Gadsby where they were met by Lou Halseth who met them with a lumber wagon and team of horses. Mosquitos were more than plentiful on this ride. They spent the first week with the Chris Halseth family before moving into the log house built by Swenson. It had taken Swenson four years to build this log house as it had home made shingles, gables carved in a beautiful pattern, and a chimney made of flat rocks and cement. The Swenson farmstead, built halfway up the river hill on a bench on the west side of the river was a beautiful spot with tall spruce trees, poplars, and willows for shelter. At the foot of this farmstead, where the Battle River flowed was a crossing where all the homesteaders from either side of the river crossed the river. A boat which belonged and was built by Bernt Hestness was used to transport the travellers, homesteaders and their machinery across the river at this point, when someone on the opposite side needed transportation across this part of the river, they would holler for someone to come and bring them across. In order to get a wagon across they unhitched the horses which swam across and then the wheels were taken off the wagon and loaded in the boat to be transported across, going back again for the remainder of the wagon. Then there was the job of putting the wagon together again. All these favors were done free gratis by Mr. Hestness. In the winter they crossed on the ice of the river.

A fresh water spring supplied water for the Hestness home (the former Swenson Homestead).

On moonlight nights before there was snow on the ice on the river, the young people would gather at this point for skating parties. When the snow arrived, there was great sport in skiing there.

The Hestness family lived here for five years, being able to raise lovely gardens here and with Bernt's love of hunting, there was no shortage of meat; bush rabbits, bush partridge, prairie chicken and ducks. There were seven deer seen in this area at this early date and these were all killed when the first hunting season opened in November 1917. No deer was seen in that area for many years after that fall. Hunting licenses cost one dollar for the month of November at that time. Bernt Hestness owned four oxen "Tom, Jerry, Dick and Jim" which he used to break up many acres of land. These oxen were purchased from Ole Paulson and had been used for freighting goods from Stettler to the Chris Halseth farm where the Halseth brothers operated a mixed store on their father's homestead. It took two days going to Stettler and two days to return with these oxen when they brought supplies of groceries, hardware, boots and shoes to the C. Halseth Economy Store in 1908. This store closed shortly after the railway came through Donalda.

The Wessington Store, one mile west and one half mile south of Willow Park School was the first store and Post Office in that area and was operated by B. W. Averill. B. W. Averill built the Willow Park School and Mrs. Bill Pickering was the first school teacher there.

One of the tragedies that took place in the Willow Park district in these early years was the death of a young lad about six or seven years of age, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Calvin who lived in the valley close to Willow Creek about a mile and one half from Willow Park School.

In July, 1974, Eddie Hestness moved from the farm to live in Donalda village in the home he pur-



Bernt Hestness with his oxen.

chased from the Bob Smith estate. Sister Helga who married Nils Aspedokken, lived on a neighboring farm for many years, selling out to Randolph Rasmussen and moved to British Columbia. They are presently living in Leduc and celebrated their Sixtieth anniversary the fall of 1979.

Sister Ella married Howard Williamson, lived at Botha where they operated a hardware store later moving to Vancouver. Both have passed on. Brother Alfred married Mabel Halseth. Both have passed on and are buried in Spruce Coulee Cemetery after living out their lives on the farm they purchased in 1917.

Dad, Bernt passed on in 1930 and Mother, Anna Marie in 1940, Mabel died in 1951 and Alfred in 1966. Eddie loves nature. He has always been a hunter and at 79 years of age still enjoys trapping beaver and muskrats and looking for Indian rocks. At one time his hobby was taxidermy.

Joe Kaufman

Joe Kaufman hauled cream to Donalda for many years. During the thirties many people didn't have a vehicle but Joe was always ready to help when needed. He often took a message or parcel from one farm to another. He would bring groceries from town and leave them when dropping off the empty cans on his way home. He also delivered gas in barrels, oil and grease. A picnic at Boss Hill, a trip to the Lacombe Experimental Farm, a ball game or just a trip to town, Joe took anyone needing a ride. The only charge — ten cents each. In 1939, he took a number of people to Edmonton to see King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

Joe continued to haul cream and deliver fuel until 1960, when carbon monoxide escaping from the furnace, caused his death. He was greatly missed by the people of Willow Park and Science Mound.

History of John Kaufman Family

Mr. and Mrs. John Kaufman and family, Ernest, Mamie, Joe and Bill came to Willow Park district from Hemingford, Nebraska in 1903 to look for a new home. They had five horses, a big covered wagon (prairie schooner) and a camping outfit. They travelled through Yellowstone Park, Wyoming, Idaho and Washington with the Bruce family, Mrs. Kaufman's sister and Ben Weilder. It took them three months and they all enjoyed the trip very much. After resting in Washington, they travelled up into British Columbia as far as Cascade City. Here they loaded their outfits and shipped everything to Lacombe, which at that time was the nearest railroad point to Red Willow, their post office.



Charlie Sterns, Fred Erickson, Ernest Kaufman and son, Allen Vikse, Sandy Quinn, Walt Zipse, Louis Zeigler.

In August they arrived at Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Smiths home, sister of Mrs. Kaufman. It was this family that had encouraged them to come here. They camped at the Smiths until Mr. Kaufman filed for homestead on the N.W. ¼ 16-40-17-W4. They got busy and soon a sod house was put up and they moved into it.

In the spring 1904 Ernest and Mamie rode six miles on horseback to Prairie Grove School, until there was a school at Willow Park. Ernest recalls starting in primer three times, once in Nebraska, then in Washington and Prairie Grove. He attended school until he was in Grade four. He was fifteen years old and soon found work stooking and threshing with neighbors or wherever work could be obtained. This schooling was very different to the privileges Ernest's children and grandchildren had.

Ernest fired a steam engine for his uncle, Mr. Smith, who was a steam engineer. After apprenticing for twelve months, he obtained his Engineer Papers. He continued to operate Steam Engines for about fifteen years for Davidson, Stratton, Swan and Parsons.

Mamie had the privilege of more education — she obtained a secretarial course. Joe and Bill soon took over farming responsibilities. Joe had a trucking business — he supplied farmers with fuel for tractors and also delivered cream to Donalda Creamery for farmers for about thirty years. Joe also brought home the neighbors groceries, repairs and necessities thus saving his neighbors and friends many trips to town.

The Kaufman home was always open to friends and neighbors in need and many appreciated this hospitality. John Kaufman passed away in 1926 but farming carried on by Joe and Bill and Mamie helped their mother at home.

Ernest Kaufman married Alice Raddis in 1928 and to this union five children were born and now fourteen grandchildren. Ernest's mother passed away in 1951 after a short illness.

Joe, Bill and Mamie carried on the farming until tragedy struck their home. Asphyxiation from the furnace caused the death of Joe and Bill in 1960. Mamie too, was near death, but she recovered; she had to give up living on the farm, so she moved to Stettler. Her health was never good and after a lengthy illness she passed away in 1974.

Ernest took up residence in Stettler in 1940. He worked for a number of years at the Municipal Hospital where steam papers were required, as well as working for different oil companies. He is still enjoying good health, maintaining his own home, also putting in a few hours a day during the summer months helping his eldest son Allen, setting up Butler Bins. His family were all privileged to get their education easier than their father, and all have good occupations. Ernest will be 86 years old in November, 1979, and spent 76 years in Alberta with no desire to leave. This is a great country we live in and are privileged people to be here.

The Liesinger Family Story

Robert and Minnie Liesinger came to Canada from Sioux Falls, South Dakota by train. They arrived in Stettler January 5th, 1906. Along with them were their children: Bill (the oldest, being ten and a half years old), Elsie, Ella, Herman, Louise and Clara. Their youngest, Annie, was born in Canada in the fall of 1906. Along with the family was Minnie's mother, "Grandma Dornbush", as well as Carl Kamalow and Henry (his son).



Robert and Minnie Liesinger.



Bill and Rose Liesinger.

Because there was no such thing as a hotel and the one and only boarding house was full, Robert and his family spent their first night on the train. The next morning, by way of Mr. Stettler's team and sleigh, they were taken to Henry Christians farm, east of Red Willow. Here they stayed, awaiting their car, furniture and three head of horses which came about two weeks later by train.

They then moved into an old Indian log shack, two rooms but no floor, located one mile north of Prairie Grove Cemetery. Bill remembers, "When Mom saw the old Indian shack she was ready to walk back to the States". Later on, Bill's father was able to buy shiplap for a floor in the bedroom.

They stayed there until the homestead house was built (April of 1906). They homestead on the N.E. ¼ 2-41-17.

As children, when they first came to Canada, Bill, Herman, and their sisters were expecting hostile Indians waiting! Fortunately they were disappointed.

While the homestead house, a sixteen by twenty-four foot, two story home, was being built, Bill broke up ten acres of land with walking plow and horses. They lived in their home three years before they were able to put siding on it. They had to make do with tar paper. (There was more added to the house later.)

Their neighbors around them were the Smiths, Kaufmans, Bruces, Strattons, Ben Widler, Halseths, Jim Frank, Millers, Browns, Arvills, Swans and Vlasaks.

The first big prairie fire that Bill remembers was the one that started near the Swan place and went clear across the flats. They were all just kids at the time and their Dad wasn't home. The boys were afraid to set a "back fire" as they didn't really know what to do, so all the family pitched in carrying

buckets of water which finally diverted it from their home. Bill tells us, if it's a rainy day and you go a mile east of the homestead, down in the coulee you can still smell gases coming up from under the ground where it still smoulders.

In 1913, Grandma Dornbush passed away and was buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

The Liesinger family was one of the luckier families when the Spanish flu hit in 1918. Although they all had their turn at it, they all came out of it and were able to talk about it for many years to come.

In 1916 and 1917 Bill drove a horse drawn road grader and helped maintain many a road.

In May of 1918 Bill, at the age of 23, joined the Canadian Army. He remained in it until the fall (about five months), but fortunately the war was over so he came back home.

When Bill came back, he worked in the Livery Stable in Donalda. In 1919 and 1920 he drove horse and cutter for Doctors Wall and Creighton. Once he recalls, he went three nights without any sleep!

In 1914 Elsie, the eldest daughter of Robert and Minnie, married Garner Wiltsie and lived south-east of Gadsby for about six years. Garner passed away in 1924. They had five daughters. Elsie now resides in Calgary.

Ella married George Wood in 1918 and worked for neighbors in the district for two years, then moved to Idaho in 1920. George passed away in the sixties. They had five boys and five girls. Ella still resides in Idaho.

Louise married Oscar Hankins in 1920 and lived in and around the Westwoods and Donalda districts. They have three boys and a girl. They now reside in Donalda.

In 1923 Annie and Clara went back to the States. In the following spring of 1924 their folks sold out and also went back. Bill and Herman stayed on the home place. Clara and Annie both married in the States. Clara passed away in 1972 at the age of 68 years. Annie still resides in Washington. Annie and her husband had two boys.

Herman moved to the Westwoods district on the N.W. ¼ 30-40-16 in 1929.

Bill was involved in many community activities throughout the years. He was councillor of the Haig municipality for two years. In 1929-30 he was on the Willow Park School Board. Bill threshed with the Strattons and Swans for many years.

In 1935 Bill married Rose Bruce, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Bruce. In 1944 they moved to the Westwoods district and bought the S.W. ¼ 31-40-16 (C.P.R. land). Here they built their home and farmed until the passing of Rose in July of 1970. In the fall of

the same year Bill sold the farm and moved into Stettler to live at Ernest Kaufmans. In 1972 Herman sold out and came to stay with Bill at Kaufmans. Herman passed away in May of 1974 at the age of 75 years. In 1977 Bill moved to the Heart Haven Home and in March of 1979 moved to the Stettler Nursing Home where he is now enjoying an active life.

Charles Morton

Charlie and Marjory Morton came to the Donalda area from Rumsey, having bought the Oscar Hankins farm in 1963. There were 4 children, Robbie, Viona, Alice, and Christina.

The Mortons joined the Spruce Coulee Farmer's Union and the Spruce Coulee Community Club. They attended the Donalda United Church, both Charlie and Marjory singing in the choir. Charlie drove the school bus to Donalda for several years; it was here his children attended school, a long ride.

While on the farm, he remodelled the house, lowering the roof, changing it to a bungalow style.

They sold the farm to Mr. Bannick and family from British Columbia and moved to Edmonton, where both got employment at the University Hospital, Charlie as an orderly, and Marge worked as an emergency admittance clerk.

Walter McIntyre Family

Walter McIntyre and his wife Laura (Pickering) came to Willow Park district in 1902. They lived in a tent their first summer on the homestead, and moved



Walter and Laura McIntyre Wedding 1899.



Laura and Walter McIntyre 60th Anniversary, 1959. Minnie and Jesse Jones — standing.

to their log home in the fall, on land that is situated at what in the early days was called “just at the top of Dickey Hill”.

In 1944, Walter and Laura moved to Vancouver, where Walter passed away in 1959. Laura continued to live there until her passing in 1973.

Their family consisted of three children; Bertha (Mrs. Crandell), Earl and Raymond.

Bertha lived most of her life in Oakland, California and passed away in July 1978 at the age of eighty-two.

Earl lived in Vancouver, British Columbia and passed on there.

Raymond and his wife Eva live at Maple Creek, Saskatchewan. They have two daughters and a son.

Walter, Laura and Bertha are buried in the Donalda Cemetery.

Mark Pickering

Mark Pickering and his wife Dora homesteaded on the site of the present farm of Dennis and Lawrence Helfer.

Their family consisted of seven children; Laura (Mrs. McIntyre), William, Minnie (Mrs. Jesse Jones), Elmer, Louie (Mrs. Ralph Shaw), Bryan and Leta (Mrs. L. Lloyd).

Mark sold his homestead to George Whitehorn and moved to a farm at the foot of the coulee, one



The Mark Pickering family. Girls: Minnie, Leta, Laura. Standing: Louie. Boys: Elmer, Brian and Will.

mile east of Donalda. He and his brother Noah farmed there until they moved into Donalda in 1922. He was janitor of the Donalda school for many years.

Grandma (Dora) Pickering passed away in 1945 at the age of 83, to be followed by her husband the next year at the age of 88.

All of their children are now deceased, except Louis (Mrs. Ralph Shaw) who resides in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Alvin J. Platz Family

Alvin Platz (Alvie to most) and his twin sister Grace were born September 28, 1892 in Chetopa, Kansas, of parents Lawrence and Elvira Platz.

In 1908 he moved to Pawnee, Oklahoma and in 1912 he married Elva Mabel Barber, the oldest daughter of William Mason Barber and his wife Amy Elvira (Harris) Barber.

In 1913 their first son was born and they moved to Donalda, where Elva's parents, the Will. Barbers and other relatives, had come and settled on home-



Platz Family. Lawrence, Goldie, Jack and Fay, Frank, Gordon and Clifford.

steads. They came by rail to Stettler, where they were met and brought out to where they would farm for Gust Friberg and where they bought land, N.E. ¼ 9-41-17-w4, there they built their home and farmstead along Willow Creek. He worked for Lew and Clarence Barber, cousins of his wife.

He also worked for Hans Christians' threshing outfit. (He remembers one especially long run), fifty-two days with the steam outfit, twenty-two teams and two bundle pitchers. They finished just before Christmas.

In 1915 he put his own crop in, then worked for Bob Flack during haying and harvest, getting his own done in between times.

In 1916 he bought more horses, cattle and machinery and rented more land. In 1917 and '18 he farmed in the summer and worked in the coal mine for Jude Wilkinson in the winter, he also hauled coal to Stettler with four horses on a sleigh, and it took two days to make a trip.

The next winter Bert Jones took his wife and family away on a trip for a while, so Alvie moved over to their farm to care for their eighty head of cattle. It was a very cold winter, fifty-two degrees below zero for three weeks, day and night. In the spring they moved back to their own home; did his farming and in the fall of 1918 he logged timber.

By this time they had three more sons, Clifford, Cecil, and Virgil. The summer was over, so in this fall of 1919, in October, he had a sale sold most everything, rented out the land, took his wife and boys, along with his wife's younger brother, John and left for Pawnee, Oklahoma.

They were driving a model T Ford, the first day they drove eighty miles, going east towards Saskatchewan. The next morning when they got up the ground was white with a foot of snow, they only made seventy miles that day. The Saskatchewan mud clung to the tires and broke the back fenders from the car. Alvie recalled how hard it was to get the mud loose — in his words "you could break your leg trying to kick the mud off those tires."

It took seven days to go a hundred and fifty miles, so he sold the car in Rosetown and continued by rail. Alvie bought the tickets for all of them to Kansas City, Missouri, and made the mistake of giving John his. As Lawrence recalls, John lost it before the train came in, so was left behind in care of the Police until they could get to Kansas City where they could cash a bank note and wire money back so he could get another ticket and join them. It was a happy reunion and they continued their journey together to Pawnee, Oklahoma.

Alvie worked for Tull Oil and Gas Company. Marvin Tull was married to his twin sister Grace.

In 1919 he bought a Dodge car and came back to their Willow Creek home where they farmed again until 1923. In December of 1921, their first daughter Goldie Marie was born, and later Gordon Gerald. Mrs. Tom Loney came to care for mother and babies as she had done for the other baby boys before.

In 1923 Alvie lost his crop by hail, and in the fall he went hunting out in the Winfield area where he fell in love with the country and filed on a homestead. He moved his wife and family and all their belongings and settled there. The tall large trees were plentiful, so it wasn't long until he had his buildings started, and some land broke up.

On this place four more children were born, John James (Jack) in 1927, Frank Richard, in 1931, Fay Elvira, in 1935, and later, another baby daughter Shirley Jean, deceased in infancy.

Alvie worked in the woods, sawed lumber and kept improving his farm, the family were grown, and in what seemed like overnight, the Oil Boom started. Oil fields opened up around the area, men were needed to work, so the boys and Alvie filled in where they could. Alvie and Elva with the younger children moved into Calmar where he worked for Home Oil Company, as Battery Operator, and from there was moved to different areas.

Elva with failing health was taken to the General Hospital in Edmonton. She passed away in 1949, and was buried in Winfield Cemetery. Alvie continued his work and on his retirement went back to his homestead near Twin Lakes to raise sheep and enjoy his love of nature, putting around in his old familiar surroundings.

He later moved to his acreage near Winfield where he lived until his health failed. Alvie was deceased in October of 1973 at the age of 81 years, and was also buried in the Winfield Cemetery.

The Family — Lawrence Platz

Lawrence married Eunice Welch in 1939, he worked for Oil Companies through Alberta, they are now comfortably retired in Sedgewick. They had three sons.

Their oldest son Clayton and his wife Lorraine live at St. Paul where Clayton cooks in a Burger Bar besides doing mixed farming, and they have two boys and a girl. Their oldest boy, Ronald does trucking, he and his wife Carol, with Kyle, age five and Jennifer, age three, live in St. Paul.
Rhonda Platz

Clayton's second child cooks at the Grenada Inn at Red Deer.

Neal, Clayton's youngest, works in St. Paul, but stays at home. Marvin, Lawrence's second son, was killed in a gas truck accident in 1962, leaving his wife Lisa and two small daughters.

The elder, Brenda Platz works in Olds at a store. Marlys is married to Rueben Ehrman and they live at Wimborne.

Clarence, Lawrence's youngest son, with his wife Laurie and baby daughter live in Drayton Valley.

Clifford Platz (Second son)

Clifford married Daisy Welch of Winfield, they lived on Vancouver Island except for a few years on the mainland where Cliff has worked in sawmills and logging camps, and have now retired at Cumberland on Vancouver Island where they enjoy their hobbies and fishing. They had a family of fourteen children: Ray, Jerry, Evelyn, Allen, Elva, Irene, William, Ralph, Edward, Rosemary, Barbara, Teddy, Susan, and Christopher. They all live in B.C. except Susan Hendrix who lives in southern Alberta.

Cecil Platz (Third son)

Cecil married Bertha Larson of Buck Lake. Cecil worked in the Oil Fields as Battery Man around Edmonton and Leduc area. They lived in Edmonton where they raised their family of five children. They are now all married with families of their own.

Florence a Kindergarten Special Needs Aid, her husband Bert a Subcontractor of Calibration and Repair of Oil and Gas Meters for Drayton Valley Meter, where they live, and they have a family of three, Dennis, Patricia and Lorraine. Patricia is married to Larry Freeman, they have a small son, Jason.

Marie a secretary and bookkeeper for a Law Firm, her husband Wally installs overhead doors through the Okanagan Valley, they live in Kelowna and have one son George.

Grace a Junior High School Teacher, her husband Roy, a geologist, their children, Leesa, B. J., and Alison all live in Edmonton.

Melvin is a Heavy Duty Mechanic in a Pulp Mill, his wife Louise is a Lab. and X-ray Technician. They live in Gold River, British Columbia with their two children, Julie and Jeffrey.

Richard an electrician, his wife Ann is a secretary, they have a son Ralph and live in Calgary.

Virgil Platz (Fourth son)

Virgil married Olive Ronnie of Holden, Beverly and her husband with their family of three boys live at Burns Lake, British Columbia. Jean and her husband Dale Hyington in Real Estate, live in Red Deer. A baby son is deceased.

There are two step daughters Shirley and Mary.

Virgil has been Battery Man for Cities Service Oil Company for the past eighteen years around Breton where he has now retired.

Goldie Platz (Fifth child — first daughter)

Goldie married Oliver Christopherson of Thorsby and settled on the north Pigeon Lake shore at Mission Beach, and commercial fishing was their livelihood. She still resides in her home there. They have two children, Caroline and Wayne. Caroline has a son, Mark Ewart.

Gordon Platz (Fifth son)

Gordon married Alice Cram of Edgerton, they have two sons at Buck Creek, Alvin and Larry. Gordon was also an Oil Field Employee, but he and Alice have retired and live at Clearwater, British Columbia where he works part-time for Wayhauser, a Sawmill Company.

John James Platz (Jack — sixth son)

Jack married Sera Dahl of Mission Beach, they have six children:

Sharon, her husband and family of three live in Whitecourt.

Dale and his wife Gloria with their son live in Drayton Valley where Dale is a partner and helps operate the "Blow Out Music Store".

Linda a Beauty Shop Operator is in Edmonton with her husband.

Fern and husband Art live in Ft. Saskatchewan.

Darren of Drayton Valley as well as Rene, just recently married Jack lives in Drayton Valley where he has Road Graders and does custom work for Oil Companies.

Frank Platz (Seventh son)

Frank married Jean Cunningham of St. Albert, they have three children, all at home; Donald, Lyle and Cindy.

Frank has operated graders around Drayton Valley for the past twenty years, mostly for his brother Jack, until recently for Parkland Construction, and they live in Drayton Valley.

Fay Platz (Second daughter — ninth child)

Fay married George Chudek of Calmar, they have four children Larry, Wayne, Gail and Leslie, also a baby deceased in infancy.

Fay resides in Drayton Valley with her younger son Leslie. She had been managing cashier for Eaton's in Edmonton for several years.

The Quesseth Story

(The Olea Quesseth family story as told in George Quesseth's family history)

In the years 1904-1905, the Quesseth brothers Einar, Olaf, George and Alfred and their widowed mother, Olea Quesseth, came to Donalda from Minnesota and started homestead life across the valley from where Donalda village sprang up.

Alfred, fifteen years of age, died from pneumonia within the year of his arrival to the homestead. The casket for Alfred was bought in Wetaskiwin. Einar went with Andrew Anderson in wagon for this casket, making the sixty mile trip in two days. Mr. and Mrs. Ole Jacobson came forward and offered their services in preparing the body for burial. The funeral cortege carrying the casket consisted of a horse drawn lumber wagon furnished by the Anderson brothers, Andrew, Carl and Johanes. With them rode Einar and George. It took almost two hours to go the nine miles over very rough country to Bethlehem Church (Ferry Point). Rev. Stavney officiated at this funeral. Alfred was buried in the Bethlehem Churchyard.



The widow Olea Quesseth, who homesteaded S.E. 4-42-18 W4.

After the funeral, Einar left on March 23rd for Minnesota to arrange for the family and mother to come to Alberta to join the brothers (minus Alfred) who had come to this area a few months previously.

George relates an amusing event which took place on this trip by train, to Alberta from Minnesota when the family were moving to the homestead. In his writings, George tells this story: When Olaf was watering their cattle during a station stop in Manitoba, their dog "Barefoot" (because he was black and the four feet were white) was out with him, and this one time when out of the train, the time passed a little more quickly than expected. The train started moving just as Olaf finished carrying water. As he got in the car, he realized that Barefoot was not with him.

He glanced outside and there was Barefoot, running with all his might trying to keep up with the train. Quickly Olaf leaned out as far as he could, called to Barefoot, and as he came where Olaf could reach him, he grabbed the dog by the collar and heaved him aboard — a mighty winded dog, but safe and sound. He was half Water-Spaniel and half Shepherd as a breed of dog.

The Quesseth brothers decided to all live together in one large house instead of putting up individual homes on their adjacent homesteads. This house was built on their Mother's homestead quarter (S.E. ¼, Sec. 4, township 42, range 18). They bought logs from Halvor Aspedokken in the Spruce Coulee district and hired him and Lars and Henry Johnson to put up the log walls of their home. These logs would be from six to eight inches in diameter and hewn a thickness of four inches, making the walls all four inches. They were hewn to fit tightly together so that there was a minimum of plastering to do between the logs.

After the walls were built up, they were sided on the outside with regular lap siding, and lathed and plastered on the inside. Olaf, with the help of his brother George completed the building of this home for their mother Olea. It still stands on the highest point of land on this quarter section and can be seen from Donalda village as you look east across the valley. There have been times when his house has been almost completely surrounded by water, but the house on its little island remains high and dry.

This farm was sold to Ed Grice and in 1914, Ed Grice sold it to the Soldier Settlement Board. This farm became the home of the Fred Ewing family who immigrated here from Scotland. The Ed Mathesons bought the farm from the Ewings and lived here for many years.

By late 1907, the Canadian Northern Railway surveyors had gone south from Camrose, across the Battle River and were heading southeast. In the spring of 1908, they had crossed the Meeting Creek valley. The Quesseth family could look across this valley from their kitchen window and watch the graders at work as they followed the west bank of the creek.

One day someone remarked "Wouldn't it be nice if the railway put a town over there? That is just what happened. A siding was laid out and the spot was marked for a townsite which was Donalda's beginning.

Soon a townsite was plotted, a nice depot was built and the settlers began to suggest names for the town.

The first name suggested was EIDSVOLD. Peti-



The homestead house of Olea Quesseth, still standing. Throughout the years this became the home of the Ed Grices, the Fred Ewing family and the Ed. Matheson family.

tions were circulated, signed and sent back to the Post Office Department.

So for the time being, this townsite was called Eidsvold, but the Railway Company demanded that the village be named Donalda in honor of their president, Mr. Donald Mann and most everyone liked this name.

By the summer of 1910, the roads had been graded all the way to Stettler.

George and Olaf ran a machinery and garage business for some time in Donalda village. Olaf was married to Minnie Halseth, and George married Sina Jerstad. Eventually George and Einar returned to the States with their families. Olaf and Minnie stayed at Donalda and lived in the house now occupied by Mrs. Suddaby. Their first child Kenneth was born here November 16th, 1917. Then they moved to their farm southeast of Donalda where they were blessed with seven other children.

Starting with the youngest, here is a brief history about them: George was only about fifteen years old when both his parents died, leaving him more or less on his own, going from one family member to another. This developed a desire in him to roam about. He was married at Provost, but within three years left his wife and two small daughters. His whereabouts is still a mystery to his family and relatives.

Inez, the second youngest married James Auld and settled in Saskatoon. They had four daughters. She lost her husband in a train — truck collision. Inez still resides in Saskatoon.

Doris the third youngest married Sidney Coats and resided in Calgary. She passed away from polio just before her third child would have been born, leaving two small daughters without a mother. Sidney has remarried.

The fourth youngest, Raymond (christened “Olaf Raymond”), married Florence Tams of Innisfail and they have made their home at Innisfail. They have a son and a daughter.

Louis and Florence came into this home in rapid succession, being only eleven months apart. They both chose the Armed Forces as a temporary career. Louis ended up in London, Ontario where he continued making his home after leaving the Air Force and marrying a girl from that area. They had a family of three girls and one boy.

Florence left the Service but brought it into her married life when she married Vic Ramsbottom who is still employed in the Armed Forces. They have five children whose names all start with “D” and were known as the five D’s through the years. They are retired and live in Calgary.

The two eldest — Ken and Phyllis married brother and sister. Phyllis to Leo Kroetch and Ken to Agnes Kroetch, two years later. Phyllis and Leo brought a family of six into the world. They lived for several years on a farm in the Heisler district; then moved to Fawcett, Alberta where they are caretakers of the school.

Ken and Agnes took up residence on the original farmstead. His parents decided they had had enough of farming by this time and moved to Calgary. About

eight years later Olaf and Minnie moved back to Donalda where Minnie died on March 25th, 1952, and Olaf passed away December 4th of that same year. They both are at rest in the Donalda Cemetery.

The following year another member of the family, Mrs. Doris Coats was taken.

By this time Ken and Agnes had a good start in raising a big family. Nadine arrived February 17, 1944, a very welcome bundle of joy in the Queseth family. Comparable to other families in the community, life went on trying to keep warm in the winter and not letting the mice take over in the house. In the summer the problem with flies was very trying and it was also hard not letting the heat get the best of you. We enjoyed life — visiting neighbours and taking part in community affairs. By the next year another babe was on the way and arrived June 11th, 1945. Ken wondered if he would ever get a boy to carry on the family name. He was patient and one not to give up easily. In the winter of 1949 Ken decided he needed extra dollars as the family was growing larger and so was his wife around the middle. He went to work in the mine run by Alvin Anonson a few miles from his home.

Ken and Agnes moved into a 14' x 16' shack at this mine. With everything in its place, it provided enough space for Donna, born February 15th, 1949 to also find a corner filled with love. She was our third daughter.

Because Agnes could not persuade anyone at the mine to be mid-wife, and with bad roads and weather conditions, she was forced to spend two weeks at Stettler awaiting Donna's arrival. Agnes was lonely and in order to get a message to her husband, phoned the Otto Paulson's and asked them to deliver a message to Ken at the mine. Mrs. Paulson was most willing to trudge through drifts for half a mile to do this for her. Her kindness will never be forgotten, — "God bless her!"

Their shack was bulging at the seams when Donna was brought home, but they were enjoying life at the mine — it was like living in a small hamlet.

In the spring they moved back to the farm. In the next year the pattern was repeated — after harvest, back to the mine, this time to live in the cook shack. In the spring of 1950, Agnes had the joy of presenting her husband with a bouncing baby boy on April 1st. Ken refused to believe it, thinking it was an April Fool's trick, but on checking, he found it had happened at last — a son! They named him DeWayne.

The next fall Nadine was of school age. Rather than having to take her back and forth to Willow Park School, a distance of one and a half miles from home,

we decided to sell the stock and move into Donalda. This country school closed the following year.

Here in Donalda Ken worked as a partner with his brother-in-law Wilfred. They rented a house from Mr. Murphy, one much smaller than the farm home, and lived that much closer together. Ken and Agnes were happy to be near his parents who were living in Donalda at this time, as they knew that his mother did not have long left to live. It was one way they could spend more time with the parents they loved so much.

Minnie was called by her Maker in March of the following year and to their despair and heartache, Olaf went Home to be with Mother just nine months later in December.

Their grief was lightened by a statement Olaf had made "When Minnie leaves this world, I want to follow shortly after."

Their deaths left a large void in the lives of this family.

Raising a family in town was very different from the farm. DeWayne had to wear a harness with a rope on it tied to the clothes line to keep him off the streets. Donna would ride her tricycle downtown and park herself on the Pool Room steps.

Money being scarce, Ken added another job to his day of activity. He drove the forty-two passenger school bus southeast of town. Within two years, Wilfred left the business and Ken's uncle Walter Halseth came into it.

On September 18th, 1954 Deborah Ann was born. Ken and Agnes just spread their arms a little further and had room for her in their hearts. At this time Hank and Vi Eichhorn moved into Donalda and this was a new joy for them, as Violet and Agnes had attended school together for nine years and were the closest of friends. Karen Colleen arrived May 11th, 1956 to join the happy family. It was at this time that they decided the house would not expand any more and started to build a house on the farm. That fall Agnes lost her mother suddenly in an accident. Friends and the United Church minister helped them through this bereavement.

The next summer they moved into the basement of their new home, and here they lived for seven years until they could complete the upstairs. Ken was driving the school bus, working in the garage, as well as farming more land. There were many times when they had overnight guests when the roads blocked and the bus or car could go no further because of stormy conditions.

Ken finally got his wish when a second son Randy was born on November 1st, 1960. By now the patter of little feet was getting less and was replaced

by the sound of big feet. The two eldest girls were going to High School in Stettler and often another chair at the table was filled by one of their friends. Nadine was the first to leave the nest. She married Gordon Mills of Camrose on July 21st, 1962, and daughter Sharon married Don Warner of Forestburg on December 29th, 1962.

Instead of losing two daughters, we had gained two sons. Gordon, Nadine and family live at Camrose; the Don Warners at Fort McMurray. Their family tree started sending out shoots. The first sprout, Kim Mills, born February 12th, 1963, was one Ken and Agnes were most proud to claim as their grandchild.

Many people will remember the storm of May 17th, 1965. The strong wind blew wet snow causing an ice build-up on telephone wires, power lines and antennas. People were stranded in Stettler, afraid to go through the masses of telephone and power lines that lay on the road. When this happened the Queseths were without power for a week, so upstairs they went where they had a coal and wood stove. That year they started finishing their upstairs (a pay as you build project). It took some time as money was scarce. The next year they moved upstairs.

On October 8th, 1965 another sprig on the family tree was added when a granddaughter was born — a sister for Kim.

When Donna finished her High School in Stettler she took employment in the Alberta School Hospital in Red Deer.

In the fall of 1967 Ken and Agnes celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary which has left many happy memories.

DeWayne left to join the Navy in 1968, his first time away from home. He spent his time in boot camp on the east coast and found out what it was like to be homesick. About a year later he moved to Victoria, B.C., where he stayed for many years returning to Alberta to make his home in 1979.

Donna went to the Vermilion School of Agriculture. Here she met Scott Williams who became her husband in 1970. They live in Vermilion.

The family was now growing into another generation. Granddaughter Michelle Williams arrived on March 18th, 1971. Then in the fall they received a chosen granddaughter “Shanon Warner” presented to them by Don and Sharon.

This same fall they welcomed their first daughter-in-law into the family. They attended DeWayne and Cathy’s wedding October 9th, 1971 in Victoria. Ken was now working for Central Garage in Donalda. The Donalda Service was sold a few years before. The School bus was still taking up part of his day and

his farming, the rest. Agnes tried to help the financial end by working at a few different jobs, but soon learned that it was not worth it to leave the family. By this time it cost as much to raise the three children left at home as it did when all seven were home.

They were again blessed with another granddaughter, Dawn Williams, July 1972 and a chosen grandson Chad Warner on October 22nd, 1974.

Now Debbie and Karen were both out working and supporting themselves leaving only Randy at home. Debbie met her future husband while working at Vermilion. On July 18th, 1975 she became the bride of Hedley Maddex and they have made Vermilion their home.

DeWayne and Cathy and their small daughter born June 15th, came from B.C. to spend a short time at home. Granddaughter Tracy was a popular baby during their brief stay.

The winter of 1974 had very little snow until after the New Year. Then it started and did not know when to quit. March was the month that topped snow making that winter. The roads just got plowed out with a lone trail down the middle of the road when the wind started blowing and snow came down in sheets. When it was all over they tunneled their way through the drifts with caterpillars. DeWayne and Cathy were visiting at that time. They were mighty glad to head for Victoria when it was all over. In the spring the creeks flooded — going over banks and bridges.

In the spring of 1976 Agnes along with daughter Karen went to Grande Prairie as cook and second cook for a road construction crew. Ken joined the crew in July and the following year Randy became an employee on this same crew. This way they had the single members of the family with them.

On July 15th, 1978 they welcomed Susan Haus-tien of Erskine into their family when Randy and Susan were married. DeWayne and Cathy and their second (newly born) daughter of June 8th, 1978 attended this wedding.

Ken and Agnes looked upon their family this day and counted four sons-in-law, two daughters-in-law, and eight grandchildren. Karen is the only one still single. They are presently alone and most grateful for the health and happiness life has showered on them and their family.

R. T. Summers and Magwood Story by Beth Magwood

In 1947 Mr. and Mrs. R. Tyrl Summers bought the S. 4-41-17-w4 from Elvin Swan, they lived there until 1950. After selling the farm to their son John (who had married Martha Barret), Mr. and Mrs. R.

T. Summers moved to Stettler. At that time I lived in Olds, Alberta and used to come out here and always felt it was the place I would like to live. When I was left alone in 1959 I moved out and farmed with John for three years.

In the spring of 1960 Lorne Magwood came from Radisson, Saskatchewan and bought the John Swan homestead S.E. 34-40-17-w4. In December 1962 Lorne and I were married. We don't farm actively anymore, but still live on the farm as we haven't found any place that we like as well.

Charles (Will) Smith

Charles (Will) W. Smith and wife Dena came from Iowa to the Willow Park district in 1902 where Mr. Smith took a homestead. Will rented an immigrant car and loaded it with their worldly goods; four horses, three cows, a calf, a bull, two pigs, plow, cook stove, cupboard, and two wooden bedsteads. The train came as far as Wetaskiwin. The trip to the homestead was very difficult, winding trails, steep hills, fording streams, and biting mosquitoes.

Although they settled on a farm, Mr. Smith being a steam engineer, proceeded to spend a lifetime in the

operation and repair of these monstrous machines, often being called many miles to fix them. He helped all his firemen get their steam engineer certificates, namely sons George and Charlie, Ernest Kaufman, Randolph Vlasak and John Swan.

The first Stratton Steamer was shipped from North Dakota and unloaded at Ponoka and was driven home by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Smith was also a blacksmith and spent many hours sharpening plow shares and shoeing horses.

His wife Dena was a hard working woman and endured more than her share of grief as her husband, four sons and a daughter predeceased her many years before her death in the Convalescent Hospital in Stettler in 1960. Of her family of seven children; Charlie, George, Edna, Mary Rose, Clarence, Elmer and Lottie, only two daughters remain alive. Mary Rose who married John Schneider is in Edmonton. They had one child, Irvin. Letta, who was a nurse, married Harvey Black and had four children, and is now living in British Columbia.



Louise and George Smith, 1924.



Back row: Charlie, George. Front row: Edna, Maryrose, Clarence Smith.

Charlie and Edna Smith remained single. George married Louise Reuther and they had seven children. The eldest, Jimmy, is deceased. He was married to Phyllis Hansen and they had five children. They live in Red Deer. Donald married Vera Hansen, they had six children and are residing at Heisler. Lyle Smith married a girl from Boston and they had one son and are now residing in Reno, Nevada. Lorne married Mary Burns, and they have three children and are now living at Haynes Junction, Yukon Territory. Maurice married Buddy Geddes, has one daughter and lives at Botha. Willard married Pat Tarnowsky, has eight children and lives on a farm at Heisler. Louise Smith also lives at Heisler. Aleta married Charlie Cassidy and they have six children and still live in the Willow Park district on the Bill Liesinger



Cassidy Family. Back row: John, Gwen, Charlie, Aleta, Greg. Front row: Connie, Debbie, Rose.

farm. Of their six children, three are married. Gwen to Robert Robinson, has two boys and lives at De-lburne where Robert is employed by A.G.T. Greg married to Margaret Chapman, has one son and lives on the farm and works with his father. John lives at home and is apprenticing to be a carpenter with his uncle. Connie is married to Robert Rajewski, has one son and lives on the former Vlasak farm. He is employed by Charlie. Debbie and Rose are attending school.

Elmer Smith married Mary McKay and had five children. He spent the greater part of his life in Castor where he taught school. Elmer and Mary are both deceased.

Clarence Smith married Edith Hilker, had two children and lived on the Smith homestead until his

death in 1948. Edith and family moved to Stettler and later to Saskatchewan where Edith still lives.

A LIME KILN

Wm. Smith and Theo Bruce made two lime kilns, one near home and the other east of the Battle River Bank. They made the kiln by digging a hole ten to twelve feet deep on a bank, then at the bottom of the hill below that deep hole (about eight feet in diameter) they dug an entrance for a fire pit. The hole was filled with lime stones and a fire was lit under them and kept going night and day for ten days. After that they left the kiln to cool off for a number of days. It made excellent lime which they used for our pioneer homes and sold the rest. People came from far and near to get lime to plaster their homes.

The Strattons

Charles Stratton was born in 1858 in Wisconsin, moved to Minnesota, Iowa and then to Charles Mix, South Dakota. In 1884 he married Julia Moen who was born in Vos, Norway in 1861. She had a son Gilbert from a former marriage whom Charlie adopted. They arrived in the Ponoka district in the spring of 1902 with their children Gilbert, Albert, Henry and Minnie. A younger daughter Clara passed away while they were still in the States. They settled on a homestead in the Wessington district now known as Willow Park in 1903. They brought with them a 20 horse power Case steam tractor which they used for brushing, sawing logs into lumber, breaking land and threshing.

For several years Gilbert and Charlie hauled mail from Red Willow to the Wessington Post Office which was located in a room off the kitchen of their home.

In 1910 Mr. Stratton bought a new 110 horse power Case steam engine which he used for brushing. He made a power brush cutter to use with the Case.

His wife Julia passed away in 1918. He married a Mrs. Hankins around 1925 and about that time he purchased land in the Botha area where he raised purebred Percheron horses. Mr. Stratton passed away in 1933.

Gilbert married Irma Guy Nixdorff in the early nineteen twenties, she had two children from a former marriage. He drilled several wells in the district and also several holes for testing coal. He was also known for his ability in doing old time blacksmith work, often staying up all night to repair a threshing machine in order to carry on threshing the next morn-

ing. In 1929 Gilbert and his wife Irma went to live in South Dakota where he operated a sheep ranch. They retired to Donalda in 1946. Irma passed away in 1948 and Gilbert in 1975 at the age of 87 years.

Albert married Minnie Hanson from Nebraska in the nineteen twenties. She passed away in 1947. Albert and his brother Henry farmed their Dad's land and bought more land which was known as the U.S. Hereford Ranch. In 1961 the ranch was sold to the Wood Brothers. In 1954 Albert married Anne (Bitzer) Muncey. Albert passed away in 1968.

Minnie Julia Stratton of Olds, married Willis Edgar Bentley of Centerville, Nova Scotia in 1921. While living at Olds during the influenza epidemic in 1918, Mr. Bentley did the chores for the farmers who were ill. He did not become ill with influenza. He was a cheese maker in a creamery in Olds, and later worked in the bank in Donalda. He farmed in the Willow Park district until moving to Calgary due to poor health in 1944. They had two children Lois Julia and Alice Kathleen. Willis passed away in 1968.

Lois Julia Bentley married James Francis Winter in 1942. James (Jim) was the son of Ernest (Dad) Winter who was the first teacher in Donalda in 1911-1913. They lived on a farm at Donalda moving to Botha in 1962 and then to Stettler in 1974. They had six children; Willis Albert (who passed away in 1948), Allen Willis, Albert Henry, Laurie James and twin daughters Alice Marie and Ann Frances. The children are all married. Willis in Calgary, Albert in Innisfail, Laurie at Caronport, Saskatchewan, Alice and Ann in Stettler. Ann and her husband Pat Schlosser have two children, Rikki Ann and Darris Place. Laurie and wife Brenda Lea (May) have one son Ronald David.

Alice Kathleen Bentley married Johnathan (Jack) James Parsons of Taroom, Australia in 1954. They lived in Calgary. Jack worked for Barber Machines for 20 years. He passed away in 1979. They had three children; Norman Alexander (Alec), Kathleen Lois and Julia Marie. Alec and his wife Jackie have a son Jeffery James.

N. J. Swan Family 1902

Mr. Nels Johnson was born on February 11, 1858 in Okelba, Gestrichland, Sweden, and in 1880 married Miss Kate Helen Larsen. In 1882, with their eldest son, John, they immigrated to America, where they homesteaded in Boone County, Nebraska. Here they lived for 20 years. Soon after arriving in America Nels Johnson had his family name changed to "Swan," as the community consisted of so many Johnsons that their mail, etc. was continually being mixed up, causing confusion among the families.

During the twenty years spent in Nebraska the remainder of their family was born; Nick, Anna, Frank, Bill and Ada.

In 1902 the urge to venture further was felt, and Nels Johnson Swan left Nebraska for Canada. He arrived in Lacombe, Alberta by train, and was taken out to the Red Willow district by a Mr. Cook, where he filed on three quarters of land in section 34-40-17-W4; one each for John, Nick and himself. He then had to return to Lacombe to get the papers drawn up by Mr. Billy Gray, who later was a Justice of the Peace in Stettler.

While at Lacombe, he bought a pair of steers, and tying them together, he drove them around in a corral for awhile. A blacksmith made a yoke for them, and he bought an old wagon. Hitching the oxen to the wagon, he then took off for his homestead; a distance of 60 miles. On arriving at Willow Creek, there were other homesteaders there, wondering how to cross the creek, as it was quite high. So, they made a raft, and floated their wagons across, and the oxen swam across. The Willow Creek caused him some trouble on another occasion when he had to cross it for some bread and milk; he cut down a tree and walked across on it.

His first project on his newly acquired land was to build a log shack and barn. Later, he broke up some land and began building a log fence around his land. The mosquitoes were terrible; smudges were kept burning continually to protect the stock.

During this year my father was helped by the neighbouring pioneers. Mrs. Gus Harrison baked bread for him, and Mr. Wagabee, a rancher just west of him, helped with various tasks.

After the shack was completed, and some prairie broken, he started back to Nebraska to get his family. A wash-out had occurred several miles north of Calgary, stalling the train; so he had to walk to Calgary, where he boarded another train for home.

In the spring of 1903 the Swan family, consisting of four boys and one little girl, being myself, headed for our new home in Canada. We had some furniture, five horses, a binder, a wagon, and a few necessary tools. The eldest girl, Anna, who was then 18 years old, remained in the U.S. to teach school.

We stayed at the Immigration Hall in Lacombe for awhile, then came out across Buffalo Lake by team on the ice in March. After arriving at our new home, the boys and Dad were kept busy building fences, cutting posts, breaking land, etc. John left soon after we arrived to work in saw-mills and stone quarries near Wetaskiwin. He became a steam engineer, and worked for Mr. Stratton.

Several trips were made to Lacombe for food and

necessary items. Seed grain was hauled from the Big Valley district. On these trips creeks had to be forded and sloughs waded through. One occasion a horse fell into a hole and was nearly lost. Another time, Dad and Nick, each with a load of sacked grain, were crossing a large slough when the draw pin broke on Nick's outfit. The grain had to be carried through about two feet of water, to shore, where they were finally able to make repairs, reload, and continue on their way. As he was too cold and wet to ride, Nick walked the rest of the way to Old Red Willow.

There were several stopping places on their many trips to Lacombe. Sorums, Todds and Tees were some of them.

The log shack that Dad had built was our first home in Canada. It was so small, that the boys slept in a tent attached to it. As it was situated near a slough, during spring floods or heavy rains, the beds were surrounded by water, in which, at times, muskrats could be seen swimming. Partridges could be heard drumming in the nearby bushes, and snakes could be found under one's pillows; but the biggest pests of all were the mosquitoes.

Realizing that a larger house was needed, our second log house was built, I believe, in 1905. This house is still standing, as is the barn built the same year. The logs were hauled from Mr. Friberg's, and the building was done with axes and cross-cut saws by Dad and the boys. Frank made most of our gates from poles. These gates were made with locks that we could open and shut without getting off our ponies. He made each gate slightly different in shape and lock, to be used in the fences and corrals.

As soon as he was old enough, Frank filed on his own homestead; the southeast quarter of section 36-40-17, which is at present owned by my daughter, Clarice Litke. Frank had proved up on this land, when tragedy struck, and he passed away in the spring of 1909 at the age of 22 years. Mr. Richard Airey, a preacher who homesteaded southeast of us, preached at his funeral. He is buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

My mother, a patient, loving, little soul, worked along with her family, baking bread, churning butter, and preparing meals, which were mainly meat and vegetables. Dad had bought two cows from Mr. Whitehorn, and my brother Bill did the milking. He later bought two more cows from Mr. Swenson.

Most of our meat was rabbit and wild fowl, which Mother dressed, saving the feathers from the birds to make pillows, and the fur from the rabbits for boot linings. She always grew a large garden, but regretted not being able to raise, because of the early frosts, the melons, tomatoes, pumpkins and cucumbers that

she had grown while in Nebraska. She always picked the wild fruits, and spent long hours working in her garden.

One of her hardest chores, I presume, was washing clothes. She had six of us to wash for by hand, with a scrub-board and tub, often using her own homemade soap. The water had to be carried from the well for the cooking, as well as for washing. She did her ironing with a flat-iron heated on the wood stove. Wood and kindling had to be gathered daily.

The Friberg family had a few sheep, so Mother would get wool from them. This she washed and carded and spun into yarn, from which she knit mitts and socks for our family. She also made quilts from the carded wool.

All the worn-out cotton clothes she saved and cut into strips. I remember spending long evenings winding these trips into balls to be used later for woven or braided rugs which adorned our bare wooden floors. Our lights consisted of tallow candles or small coal-oil lamps.

One day, Mrs. Stratton brought Mother four hens. These were kept in a little pen in the corner of the tent. I remember that one became sick, so Mother gave it a pill made of lard and red pepper. The hen recovered.

In spite of her many jobs and hardships, my mother always had time to read her Bible and sing songs to her children.

For recreation there were picnics in various spots. These consisted of picnic dinners, and brings to my mind one incident of which I was told; that a minister arrived from a distance on horseback, but instead of the usual grace, he sang a song. Some of the words were as follows: "What's more fun than a picnic party, Plates all on the ground; Ants in the milk pitcher, Bugs in the butter, and mosquitoes buzzing around."

There were races of all sorts, such as foot-races and horse races. Usually, the Indian ponies came out on top in these. These races used to cause a lot of excitement, and it was hard to keep some of the owners off the track. This was the case when Mr. Dickey's old "Buck" was running.

Ball games and shooting galleries were also enjoyed. Our school had a ball team on which my brother, Nick played. Others on the team were; John Bradey, Bill Pickering, Elmer Pickering, Frank McNeil, Roy Dickey, Hendal and others.

There were dances and parties galore. My brother, John, and Carl Blatcher played for several dances. Other musicians were; Lou and Lloyd Bar-

ber, the Eckerts, and George Harrison. It was mostly violin music in those days.

I was the only one of our family to attend school in Canada. I started at Willow Park School, which was situated north of Mr. Averill's place. He had the Wessington Post Office and Store. Later, the school was moved a mile east by Charlie Stratton with his steam engine. I obtained all of my schooling there, except part of grade nine in Gadsby.

My first teacher at Willow Park was Frank McNeil, who was then batching on his homestead (where Helfer now lives). Later teachers were Miss Campbell, Mr. McDonald, and George Nichols.

Nick took me to school at first with a single horse and top-buggy. Later, Dad bought me a snow-white pony from Tommy Baird. She was an unbroken two-year-old, but my brother, Bill broke her in, and I rode her to school for several years. I used to have some trouble in managing her at times, as I was only about eight years old when I first started riding her. Bill went to school for a very short time to help me with the pony. (He had already finished his schooling in Nebraska.) After this, one of the bigger boys, Cyril Bernard, used to saddle and bridle her for me, which was very kind of him.

One morning, when I was on my way to school, my pony bolted and ran through a bush, causing me to lose my lunch pail. I remember that Cora Jones shared her lunch with me that day. I used to get very homesick at school, and Cora was very good to me in helping me to overcome this.

I bought my third reader from Mr. Averill at his store. I rode up to the door; he came out to see what I wanted, and brought the book out to me. I paid him and rode away for home.

Here is a list of pupils that I remember attending school with me: Lorne and Cyril Bernard, Bertha McIntyre, Louie, Leta and Bryan Pickering, Cora Jones, Tressa Averill, Mamie Harrison, and the Bruces, Smiths, Kaufmans, Leisingers, Strattons, Whitehorns, Swensons, Halseths, Vlasaks, and Zirbels. During my last years at school, Minnie Stratton (now Mrs. Willis Bently, Calgary) rode with me to school, day after day. We were the only pupils from this direction. George Nichols was my last teacher, and as he was living in this district, he also used to ride along with us at times. Mr. Nichols later bought a farm north of Gadsby, and in later years he moved to Castor, where some of his family still live.

I wrote my grade eight exams in Gadsby, along with Mamie Kaufman and Edna Smith. We all stayed at Miss Ghents, who ran a sort of rooming house there.

The Willow Park school was also used for church

and Sunday School. Sunday School was taught by local men and women. Ministers travelled through the district, some staying for quite awhile, others not so long.

Every five years, my sister, Anna, visited us for the summer. These visit were looked forward to eagerly by the whole family, but particularly by Mother. Anna married and settled in Nevada, where she and her husband are both buried. They had no children.

My brother, John, married Miss Bertha Bakke, who worked for Mrs. Stratton. Bertha and her sister, Inga, who still lives at Medicine Hat, came out from Norway to meet their brother, Goey Bakke, who had been in the district for a few years. He passed away several years ago at an early age.

Goey had homesteaded land north of Paulson's, and donated the land in the northwest corner of the quarter to be used as a graveyard. This is the Spruce Coulee Cemetery, where he is buried.

Bertha and John moved onto John's own homestead, and put up buildings. He and Nick bought a threshing separator from Mr. Bob Russell, and a steam engine from Ted Cummins, and together they threshed for many years throughout the district.

Bertha and John, now deceased, raised a family of five girls and two boys; Lila (Mrs. Joe Allen), Elvin, George, Berniece (Mrs. John Campbell), Laura (Mrs. Eddie Blumhagen), Martha (Mrs. Joe McKay), and twin, Marjorie Pascoe (deceased). Mary died in infancy. All reside in Calgary, except Berniece, who lives near Botha, Alberta.

When Bill became of age to file on a homestead, all the land had been taken, so he bought a quarter section from Mr. Phyl Elliott, which he still owns; the northwest quarter of section 14-40-17.

My father bought a quarter of land from Dave Elsworth, and the house was moved and joined to our present log house. We all enjoyed this extra room for a time, but in 1917 I married and moved away. Nick remained at home with our parents. The hardships of pioneer days were pretty well over by then, and they were getting a few conveniences. A rural telephone line was put in to Red Willow; Nick bought a Model T car for transportation; later, they got a radio, and nearly every Sunday all of the family came home to listen to William Aberhart speak.

The last years of my parent's lives seemed quiet and peaceful. Dad divided his land among some of his decedents, but the home half section he kept and rented to John. Today, the north quarter is owned by his great-grandson, Deral Lang.

Mother passed away in 1946 at the age of 88 years; Dad passed away on December 8, 1949 at the

age of 91 years; Nick passed away in October, 1976 at 93 years of age. They are all buried in the Spruce Coulee Cemetery.

Bill, who now lives at Heart Haven in Stettler, and myself, are all that are left of the original Swan family. Bill had returned to the U.S., where he obtained employment at Ladd, Illinois. He stayed for some time with the Wick family, who were relatives of ours. On his return to Canada, he took up the Aladin Lamp agency in this district.

Bill farmed his quarter section with horses, and raised a few cattle; batching. Then, in 1919 I, with my two little girls, moved in with him, where we lived until 1925, when I moved with my family to the farm formerly owned by Ralph Mogden. My husband, Bert Connon, and I still live there, in the yard of our son, the Nelson Connon family, who now own the farm. Nelson, our only son, married Margaret Reynolds, and they have four boys; John, Darren, Clayton, and Jamison.

My daughters, Helen Bailey, Lorraine Lang, and Yvonne Coleman, all live near by; Dorothea (Mrs. Bob Nissen) lives in Calgary; Clarice (Mrs. Dwayne Litke) lives near Sherwood Park, Alberta.

My husband, Bert Connon, came with his family from Calgary to the Westwoods district in 1919, living where Fred Vowles now lives. The family consisted of Bert, Margaret, Alba, Clarice, and Johnny, and their parents, John and Elizabeth Connon. The remainder of the family; Jim, Ruth, Cora, Dot, and Berniece had married, and had homes of their own.

During their stay here at Westwoods, they contributed to the cause of education by boarding the teachers; Mr. Connon served on the school board, and Mrs. Connon was secretary.

In 1923 the family decided to move to Haney, B.C. to make their home. Their last years were spent in Vancouver, where John and Elizabeth are buried. Bert remained in this district, and Johnny was killed in World War Two in 1944. The rest of the family live in Vancouver and California.

by Ada S. Connon

John Swan

John Swan was born in Jodre, Sweden on December 4, 1880 and was about two years of age when his parents emigrated to Boone County, Nebraska, where they lived for twenty years.

In the spring of 1903 John came to his homestead, the S.E.¼ 34-40-17-w4 in the Wessington (Willow Park) district. He was accompanied by his parents, Kate and Nels Johnson Swan, and brothers Nick, Frank and Bill and a young sister Ada. His

sister Anna remained in the United States to teach school. His father had been to Alberta the year before to file on three quarters of land in the same section, one each for John, Nick and himself. They travelled by train to Lacombe and then by team across Buffalo Lake on the ice in March to get to their homestead.

John soon found work in saw-mills and stone quarries near Wetaskiwin and got his steam engineer's certificate in 1907. He then worked for a neighbor, Chas. Stratton who owned a steam engine at the time.

On December 22, 1908 John married Bertha Bakke, who worked for Mrs. Stratton. Bertha and her sister Inga came from Numedal, Norway in 1904 to join their brother Goey, who had been in the area for a few years. Goe Bakke had a homestead in the Spruce Coulee district and the cemetery is on this land. He passed away in 1917 at an early age and was buried in the Spruce Coulee Cemetery. Inga worked for a Minister's wife who had lived somewhere north of Spruce Coulee. In 1915, Inga and Bill Weiler were married and lived in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan for several years before moving to Medicine Hat. Their family: Fred, lives in Camrose; Stan, in Medicine



Bertha and John Swan Wedding 1908; attendants; Inga Bakke and Nick Swan.

Hat and Norma — (Mrs. Harold MacNeil) in Edmonton.

In 1912 John and his brother Nick bought a steam engine and a threshing separator and for many years threshed in the area. Later they had a cook car with the outfit. John was also involved for a while with his steam engine in a sawmill operation at Battle River. Besides breaking land and farming, he raised cattle and hogs. He also worked as a foreman on a road-work crew, and served for a time on the Willow Park school board.

Bertha was kept busy with a growing family. She milked cows, raised chickens and geese, and always had a large garden. She did a lot of canning, made her own laundry soap and carded wool for quilts.

In 1919 John bought a new Chev Touring Car. At this time they had a larger house and a new barn built. Some of their nearest neighbors to the north were Strattons, Bentleys, Smiths, Kaufmans, Liesingers, Hankins, Bruces, Halseths, Bernards, Fribergs, Quesseths and Vlasaks.

Bertha and John raised a family of five girls and two boys who all attended school at Willow Park. Some of their teachers were Linda Flack, Jennie Whitehorn, Elva Clifford, Coby Hornady, Margaret Hamilton, Dorothy Banford, and Marion Taylor. The school concerts, school picnics and music festivals were very much enjoyed.

Lila attended Garbutt Business College in Medicine Hat. Her husband, Joe Allan, is now retired and they live in Calgary. Their sons, Ronnie and Mel live in Edmonton.

Elvin worked as an automotive mechanic and is now retired. He and his wife Dorothy live in Calgary. Their daughters — Gloria (Mrs. Ed Kanski) lives at Cochrane and Betty (Mrs. Ted Gallegos) lives in Fremont, California.

George is also an automotive mechanic. He worked for Ells Whitehorn at the Empire Garage in the early thirties. He is now semi-retired, living in Calgary. His son, Richard lives at Edson, daughter Donna (Mrs. Marvin Stewart) and another son Dale live in San Jose, California.

Berneice (Mrs. John Campbell) with son Jay and daughter Kay live on their farm south-east of Botha. Her husband passed away in 1975. Berniece was previously married to Phil Lang. He passed away suddenly at their home on December 21, 1951. Their children — Shirley (Mrs. Gil Kleven) lives at Halkirk; Joyce — (Mrs. Charles Brewster) lives at Kamloops, British Columbia, and Verle lives at Red Deer.

Laura lives in Calgary (Mrs. Ed. Blumhagen). Her husband passed away in 1957. Their sons —

Dennis lives in Calgary, Gale lives in Botha and Wayne in Airdrie.

Marjorie (Mrs. Ted Pascoe) passed away in a Calgary hospital on October 9, 1975. Her children — Glen and Karen live in Calgary and Judy (Mrs. Wayne Stull) lives in Carstairs. Marjorie and her sister Laura had operated a beauty parlor in Stettler.

Martha (Mrs. McKay) and her son Joey live in Calgary. Her daughter Diana (Mrs. Murray Sorenson) lives in Red Deer. Martha and her sister Marjorie are twins.

Mary — their youngest daughter, died in infancy.

John and Bertha remained on the farm and continued farming after the family left. After John's mother passed away in 1946, his father lived with them until his passing in 1949.

Bertha was born on February 6, 1888 and passed away on December 10, 1951. John was seventy-five years of age when he passed away on January 18, 1955.

Gullek and Christina Swenson

by Albert R. Swenson

My father and mother, Gullek and Christina Swenson, together with two families, one of them by the name of Friberg, moved to the Donalds area in 1900. The move was made by rail to Stettler, Canada, from an area twenty-five miles from Thief Falls, Minnesota.

The names of the children, and ages on arrival in the area are; Hilda Matilda was 12, Samuel Oliver was 10, Lena Regina was 7, Richard Adolf aged 5, Martin Elmer aged 3, and Elmer Theodore aged 1.



Albert Swenson with his "Deers".

Oscar William was born in Canada in 1904, also Albert Raymond in 1906.

Their occupations were farming and raising livestock. Their clothing was mostly homemade, food was raised and wildlife plentiful. Our first home was built a year or so later and the log cabin we first lived in was used as a chicken house. I was teased for years that I was born in a hen house.



Albert Swenson was born here May 21, 1906.



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Swenson.

The mode of travel used was oxen and bronco horses. I remember a young lady by the name of Stella Jones who would like to travel to the store with a team of oxen. She would take me with her, and we forded the river at a place called Swenson Crossing. Our homestead was at a site on the Battle River. Some of the neighbors were Jones, Ole Paulson, Friberg, Knute Haugejorden.

Our post office was Wessington, but for trading we had to go to Stettler, which took two or three days.

We left the area about 1910 and moved to Athabasca Landing, Alberta. My mother and brother Sam operated a hotel there and my father was a big game

guide and Taxidermist. After residing here for a few years, we moved back to Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Anton Vlasak

Anton Vlasak homesteaded in the Willow Park district in 1910. The family moved to Canada from Nebraska, U.S.A. There were ten children, but two of them, Henry and Agnes, stayed in Nebraska. Amil, Tonia, Mary, Rudolph, Abbie, Fred, Helen and Joe came to Canada with their parents. Helen and Joe later returned to Nebraska. Amil married Amelia Reuther and moved to Armstrong, British Columbia. Abbie married Joe Reuther and they also moved to Armstrong. Rudolph, Fred and Tonia continued to live in Willow Park for many years.

The family are all deceased except Tonia. She lives at Ponoka. Bob and Connie Rajewski live on the original homestead.

Frank and Ruth Wood

In the spring of 1948, Frank and Ruth Wood, Max and Willard's parents, with six of their seventeen children came from Regina to settle in "Woodville" as the ranch was jokingly referred to after a family reunion in later years.

In 1964, Frank and Ruth celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary with one hundred and thirteen immediate family descendants in attendance. On that occasion the sign posted at the gate "Woodville, population 113" proved slightly confusing to at least one passer who stopped and commented in all seriousness that the village must have sprung up quite recently as it hadn't been there on the previous drive through the area.

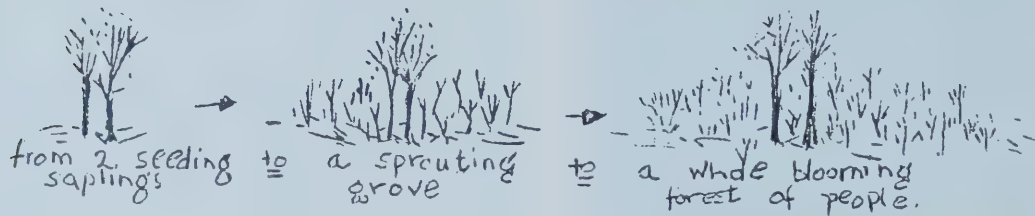
In 1975, Frank and Ruth who were living in Bashaw decided to move back to Regina. Frank passed away suddenly in December of 1976. Ruth now lives in Saskatoon with a daughter. Currie, Dixie and two daughters live on a farm near Derwent, Alberta. Dick and family make their home in Saskatoon. Bud, Norma and family live near Rimbey. Mary Lou and husband Jim McCreadie and family reside in Calgary. Ray, Ralph, Lee and families live in Regina. These were the younger family members who came to Alberta with Frank and Ruth.

Max and Willard Wood

After being discharged from the army in 1945, Max Wood returned to the Willow Park district where he was employed by the Stratton Brothers. His brother Willard and wife Buntly moved from Regina to reside at the Stratton Brothers Ranch also. Max



FRANK and RUTH WOOD



(1914)

SIXTY YEARS OF GROWING THE WOODPILE

(1974)

married Pat Williams from Ohaton, who had taught school in Willow Park for a number of years.

Willard and Bunty had three children; Marjorie is now Mrs. Walter Preugschas and at present lives in Bloomsbury, Alberta. Keeping busy farming. They have one son Nolan. Gregory is in the Canadian Embassy stationed in Holland the past three years. He was previously stationed in Africa. Brian and his wife Patti are presently living in Bonnyville. Brian just recently opened his own law office.

Max and Pat had four children; Colleen, Bruce,

Carol and David. Colleen and husband Rick Lloyd and sons Michael and Jason live in Nanaimo, British Columbia. Bruce and wife Ava are living in Edmonton, Carol and husband Tom Ulm live in Kelowna, British Columbia. David is presently working in Red Deer.

Max and Willard, who had become owners of the U.S. Herford Ranch in the '50s sold the ranch in 1975. Early in 1976, Willard passed away following a brief illness. Bunty moved to Stettler. Max and Pat moved to Bashaw.

War Veterans



military funeral

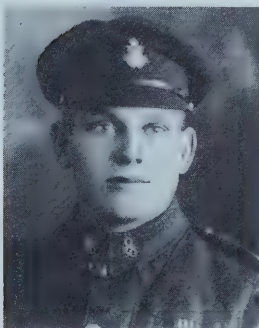
We Owe Them Much

We Owe Them Much, these men and women brave.
Who to keep Canada free, many their lives gave.
Lest we break Faith again, we must take heed
And practice faith and love, not lust and greed.

World War 1; Honour Roll



Alfred Mann



Henry Hanson

Aspedokken, Nels
Ackland, John
Barnes, Harry
Blomgren, Abel
Burns, Martin
Christie, Norman
Colonel Clifford
Cook, Joseph
Dahl, Morris
Dempsey, James
Graham, Jess
Hansen, Henry
Haugejorden, Nils
Heater, Roy*
Hoover, Earl
Kerr, Tom
Liesinger, William
Mann, Alfred
Matheson, E. (Scottie)
Mitcheson, Arthur
Moland, Ole
Moult, William
Norby, Richard*

Nilson, Karl
Nordvie, Oscar
Norman, Godfrey
Norman, Robert
Pearce, Ed
Pearce, Sam
Pickering, Elmer*
Pipe, Allan
Pratt, Frank
Salmon, Bruce*
Salmon, Alex*
Silverson, Wilber
Smith, Robert
Stolee, Peter
Storey, William
Suddaby, Ernest
Ordge, Jack
Vikse, Ben
Vikse, Torkel
Whamond, Archie Sr.
Williams, Alfred*
Zuehlke, Frank



Alfred Williams



Earl Hoover

World War II; Honour Roll

Our Service Women



Elaine (Hall) McKay

Berg, Amy
Erickson, Selma
Hall, Elaine
Hoffman, Anna
Lee, Marjorie
Matheson, Elspeth

McKay, Mysie
Shea, Doris
Shea, Mary
Summers, Beth
Whamond, May
Whitehorn, Ruth



Mysie (McKay) Dermott

Our Service Men

Albers, Cliff
Albers, Fred
Ames, Donald
Anderson, Arnt
Anderson, Edward
Anderson, Gordon
Anderson, Stanley
Anderson, Wallace
Askeland, Vernon
Bailey, Orville
Batke, Earl
Batke, Roy
Bergum, Keith
Beugin, John
Bjorge, Alfred
Bjorge, Engvold
Bjorge, Olaf
Blouin, Foch
Broughton, Abel
Broughton, Omar
Chambers, Alfred

Chambers, George
Chambers, Henry
Chapman, Harold
Clement, Kenneth
Clovis, Lawrence
Clovis, Lester
Cook, Jack
Cook, Peter
Dahl, Harry
Damberger, Lyle
Dickey, Robert
Dickey, Vern
Eastwood, Tom
Estacailie, Norman*
Ewing, William
Ewing, David
Ewing, George
Ewing, Herbert
Ewing, John
Gronlund, Alton
Hagen, Donald

Hagen, James
Hagen, Norman
Hall, Tracy
Haugejorden, Gilbert
Haugstad, Bernard
Hayes, Brian
Hearonemus, George
Hearonemus, Wilfred
Heater, Elmer
Heater, Milton
Henke, Albert
Henrikson, Alfred
Hildreth, Alex
Hilker, Ernie
Hillaby, Ronald
Huff, Kelly
Johanson, Arne
Johnson, Ben
Johnson, Harold
Johnson, Lloyd
Jones, Casey

Jones, Percy
Kahl, Dee
Kerr, Roy
Kneeland, Ervin
Kneeland, Howard
Lee, Wilbur*
Liddell, Clem
Lindstrom, Ivar*
Lindstrom, Gerald
Lingard, Nels
Magwood, Lorne
Matheson, Ed.
McBride, Cecil
McDonald, Rod
McKay, Flack
McKay, Herbert
McIntyre, Earl
McKeown, Robert
Monson, Henry
Monson, Norman
Montgomery, Chester

Nelson, Mirrel
 Nordvie, Clarence
 Norman, Arne
 Norman, Willie
 Northey, Arthur*
 Northey, Lloyd*
 Oberg, Floyd
 Odegard, Edward
 Olsen, Arne
 Olsen, Lawrence
 Ordge, Alex
 Ordge, Pat
 Paul, Everett —
 Croix de Guerre
 Paulson, Nels
 Paterson, Ian
 Peatman, Dennis
 Peatman, George
 Pellowe, Fred

Pickering, Clarence
 Porter, Winston
 Quesseth, Kenneth
 Quesseth, Ossie
 Rake, Dennis*
 Ramstad, Jess
 Rasmussen, Cliff
 Reynolds, Cleeve
 Reynolds, Floyd
 Rudd, Ralph
 Russell, Donald
 Sahlin, Aluff
 Saltvold, Edgar
 Saltvold, Fred
 Schillie, Joseph
 Shea, Lawrence
 Shea, Obie
 Shea, Pat
 Sheppard, Jack

Shoemaker, Leo
 Smith, Clarence
 Smith, Guy
 Smith, Jesse
 Smith, William
 Soderstrom, Oliver
 Solomonson, Tom
 Solomonson, Walter
 Southall, Jack
 Stanvick, Alvin
 Stolee, Carl
 Stolee, Peter
 Strahan, Walter
 Thibeau, Jack
 Thibeau, Joseph
 Todd, Frank
 Todd, Harvey
 Todd, John

Todd, Lloyd
 Todd, Louie
 Van Blarcom, Eugene
 Vikse, Donald
 Vikse, Francis
 Vikse, Lester
 Vikse, Orville
 Westlund, Wally
Military Medal
 Whamond, Archie Sr.
 Whamond, Archie Jr.
 Williams, Fred
 Winters, Earl
 Wood, Clarence*
 Wood, Max
 Wood, Willard
 Wright, Charles
 Zuehlke, Fred*

* Lost life while in service.



Fred Shoemaker



Wilbur Lee



Flack McKay



Lester Vikse



Frank Todd



Norman Hagen



Don Vikse



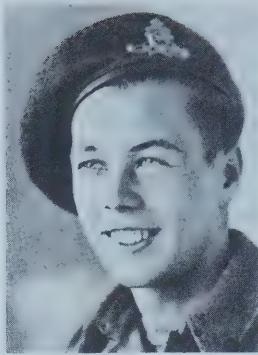
Ron Hillaby



Herbert McKay



George Peatman



Dennis Peatman



Tracy Hall



Clarence Nordvie



Walter Solomonson



Lloyd Todd



Brian Hayes



Willie Norman



Gerald Lindstrom



Harry Dahl



Orville Bailey



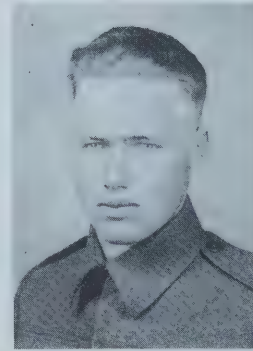
Norman Estacailie



Ken Clement



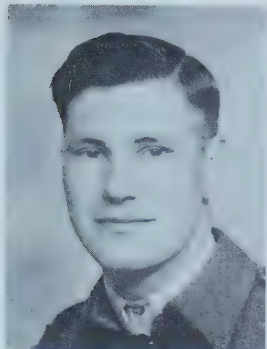
Nels Paulson



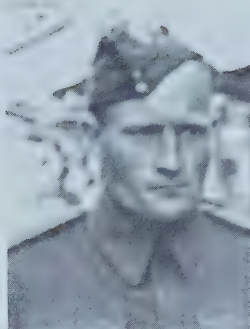
Arne Norman



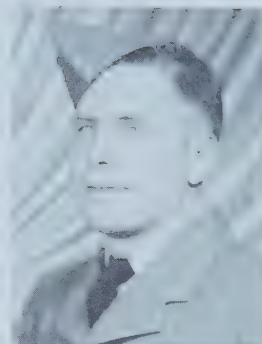
Bennie Johnson



Chester Montgomery



George Hagen



Stanley Anderson



Alvin Stanvik



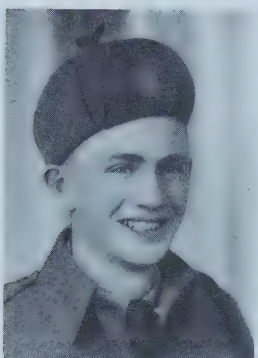
Vernon Nordvie



Carl Pederson



J. W. Dempsey.



Dennis Rake

One

The bright golden hay,
The green of the grass,
Turquoise lakes that shine
like a looking glass.

A country of love and
A country of peace,
forming a nation of
Friendship and Hope.
Our country should be
United as one
Without any battles
to be lost or won.

Christine Collin



Gottfried Norman



Ed. Anderson

Machinery



Ken, Wesley and Clifton Clement threshing barge stacks.



Joe Tucker on the push binder 1928.



Wesley Clement and barge with ten horses.



Randolph Rasmussen and Lars Hagen's Saw Mill.



Overshot Stacker.



Rumely Oil Pull — John Miller and John Kahl.



Cutting brush on Lars Hagen farm.



Bob Flack turning sod.



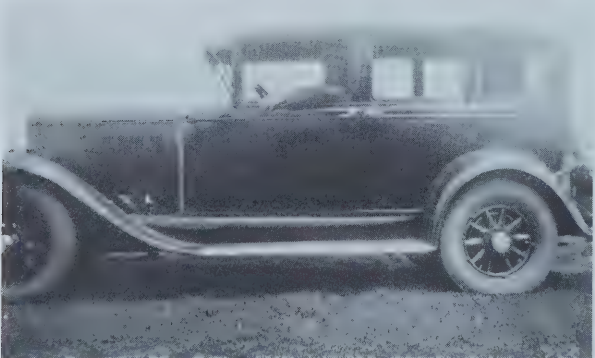
Horses-wagon-car.



John Kahl and daughter Alma with hay sweep.



Lady driving one horse.



Martin Dahl's Graham Page.



Big barn.



Men and old tractor.



Francis Lee Threshing.



Old truck.



Old car.



Binder.



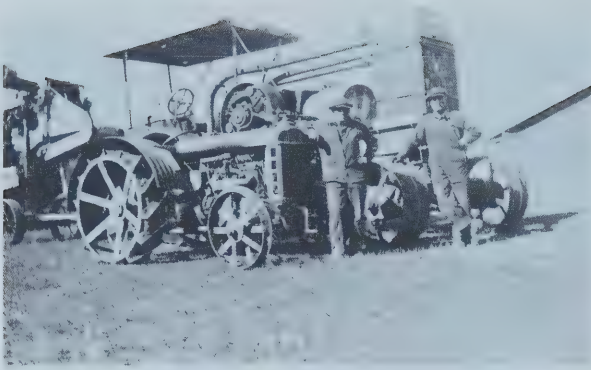
Hutchinson's Steam Outfit.



Tractor and disc.



Steam Outfit.



Ernest Lawson and Jake Tellman standing by the Oil Pull Rumely and Fordson tractor at Mardon Ranch in 1928.



Stack threshing.



On the binder is Mr. John Lawson, and on the Fordson tractor is Ernest Lawson at Mardon Ranch in 1928.



Threshing with bundle racks at Todds.



Getting ready to thresh the wheat at Mardon Ranch in 1928.



Old Steamers threshing outfit.



Carl and Lionel Kline.



First tractor shipped to Donald (Bailey's) about 1915-1916. A Parrat make.



Building roads on the Donalds hill in 1928. Using an elevator grader.



Building roads south of Donalds — the new way.



Ferris wheel used in muddy fields. Grandad Throssel on the binder.



Kaufmans.



Plowing with a team of six.



Kaufmans.



Minneapolis 20-40 H.P. tractor, pulling five 14 inch breakers. O. A. Broughton standing. Mrs. Broughton's half brother Ole on tractor. He modified this plow from an eight bottom.



Randolph's 110 steamer and 11 share plow — broke 1,000 acres in 1918.



Vita Sorenson.



Hans Halseide taking a coffee break, seeding on the old Sorenson place.



An early combine on the Lundell farm — 1944.



Tommy Aspedokken on "Titan" tractor in early 20's.



Threshing with the company tractor and separator.

General Interest Pictures

RATION BOOK 3  **CARNET DE RATIONNEMENT 3**
RB-150 CANADA

Name
Nom *Norman, Albert William*

Street Address or R.R. No.
No et rue ou R.R. No

City or Town
Ville ou Village *Donalds,*

Province
Province *Alberta*

Prefix and
Serial Number

LETTERS	NUMBERS
EN	072602
LETTERS	NUMBERS

 No de Série
(avec lettres)

Write Age if under 16. Indiquez l'âge si moins de 16 ans



Jim Dempsey and his Ford Coupe in the Coulee below town 1930.

OWNER  **LICENSE**
MOTOR VEHICLE **No. 16881**

Issued to *W.D. Dempsey*

Address *Donalds*

DESCRIPTION OF VEHICLE

Name of Manufacturer *Ford*

Factory No. *C 4476* No. of H.P. *25*

Motive Power *Gasoline* Style *Standard*

Edmonton *Sept 16* 1917. Deputy Provincial Secretary

Countersigned

Extracts from Regulations.

1. This license shall remain in force during the calendar year in which it is issued.
2. No number plate other than that issued by the Provincial Secretary shall be exposed on any part of a motor vehicle.
3. No motor vehicle shall be operated or driven under any other number than that of its own registration.
4. The number on the front shall be in such position as to render it distinctly visible. The number on the back shall be placed on the motor vehicle, and in such a position as to be distinctly visible, so that the lower edge thereof shall not be lower than the axle.
5. Upon the sale or transfer of ownership of any motor vehicle, registered pursuant to the provisions of this Act, it shall be the duty of the person in whose name such motor vehicle is registered to immediately notify the Provincial Secretary of the name and address of the new owner, and to return the license and number plates of vehicle.
6. No intoxicated person shall drive or operate a motor vehicle in any place.



Boating on Hammarberg's Slough — Eugene Hill, Alma Hammarberg, August Hammarberg and Willie Norman rowing boat. Selma Norman, Alma Hammarberg, Mrs. Chapman, Harold Chalmers in boat.

School Days

68 The Western School Supply Company

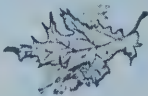
6

PRIMER



See this apple.
It is Helen's apple.
It is a red apple.

See this leaf.
It is not a red leaf.
It is a green leaf.



Do you see this flower?
It is my flower.
It is a yellow flower.

Here is a hat.
It is a straw hat.
It is my straw hat.



Reading Tablets

40 Lessons, 20 Cards, size 25x19 inches, beautifully printed and illustrated.

A set of the cards are indispensable for primary class in every Rural School.

These are the tablets which accompany the readers used in the Western Provinces.

10

Ee

met	men	sent	nest	left
set	pen	tent	shed	then
fed	hen	lent	shell	them

Ted is at the camp.
That is his tent.
It is at the pond.
Ned is at the camp too.
Tom lent a net to Ted.
Ted sent some fish to Tom.

Ned's pet hen had
a nest in the shed.
She soon had ten
little ones.

n-st	s-nt	t-th	sh-ll
sh-d	th-n	d-sh	sp-ll
sh-p	th-m	l-nd	sp-nd

Price \$0.75

Don't forget that you can purchase School Supplies from us on credit, interest at 5 per cent. Send your orders. We will do the rest.

Catalogue and Price List

177

208 The Western School Supply Company

School House Stoves

We can thoroughly recommend the Boss Cone Heater Coal Stove. It is solid, heavy, and the cone spreads the heat.

PRICES

No. 318—Large size, height 50 in. Fire Pot 18 in. Weight 335 lbs.

..... \$43.50

No. 321—Largest size, height 59 in. Fire Pot 20 in. Weight 455 lbs.

..... \$57.50

PIPING

6 in. pipe, 25c per length

7 in. pipe, 30c per length

About 15 inches to 1

length

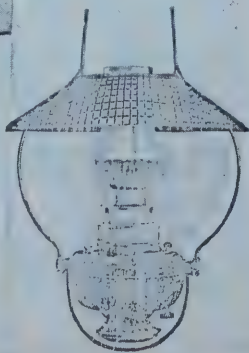
Elbows 35c each

Lamps for School

School Hand Bells



1-3 1/2 inch diameter .. \$1.00



Drinking Water Tanks

We strongly recommend the purchase of a Drinking Water Tank for every School for keeping the Water cool. We supply Tanks same as cut in which the water compartment is made of galvanized iron. The space between the water compartment and outside is filled with a non-heat-conducting material, nickel plate Tap of a durable make, Handsomely Decorated.

No. 3—3 gal. size. Price \$7.00

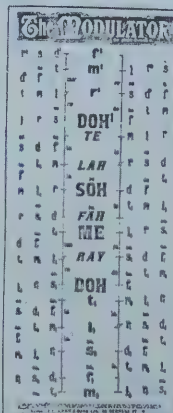
No. 4—4 gal. size. Price 9.00

No. 6—6 gal. size. Price 10.50

No. 10—10 gal. size. Price 13.50

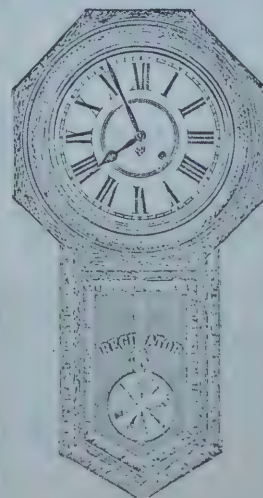
School Clocks

Tonic Sol-Fa Modulator



Mounted on linen, with Roller Top and bottom.

Price \$3.00



542 by Berit Hagen



First car — Lenard Kneeland, Lou Day and George Kneeland.



Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Broughton and daughters, Lorraine, Kay, Mavis and Janice. Taken in 1976 at their fortieth anniversary.



1928 Back row: Mrs. Pullyblank, Mrs. Ole Anderson, Roxy Vikse, unknown, Mrs. Betsy Vikse, Mrs. Chris Lauser and Christen Peter, Ethel Anderson and two unknown. Front row: Mrs. Otteson, unknown, unknown, Edie Anderson, Mollie Stolee, Mrs. Alfred Anderson, Mrs. Pete Rasmussen, Mrs. Albers, Mrs. Ole Anderson, Rose Rasmussen.



Arne Norman driving tractor from the binder.



At "Hearonemus Bay" on Buffalo Lake 1926. Jim Dempsey, Valerie Hoover, Patsy Hoover, Vera Brown, Doug. Brown, Earl Hoover, Del Grice, Ed. Grice and Earl Hoover.



About to be dismantled. A family gathering in 1920, around the remains of the B. J. Stolee log home of 1902. A new home was built in 1905. Jacob, Constance, Hannah, Peter, Alice, Ingeborg, Agnes, Mike, Father, Mother, August, Selmer.



Will. Christians and Don. Lawson Klondike Nite 1956.



Joe and Jack Cook sawing wood in the thirties, using the "Helping Henry".



The first home of Ole Broughtons, where Laurence was born.



A Community Party in the school in the '40s. Back row: L. to R.: Casey Jones; Don Adair; Lyle Heisz; Donna Jean Paege; Lavonne Jones; Geraldine Northey; Jewell Tucker; Myrna Moulty; June Davison; Ida Heisz; Cliff Rasmussen; Jessie Rasmussen; Verne Jones. Third row: Henry Paege; Doris Wotherspoon; Winston Clement; Reuben Bond; Margaret Lawson; Doris Glasener; Bob Wotherspoon; Percy Jones; Eldon Nordvie; Cyril Davison; Leo Heisz; Carlene Jones. Second row: Evelyn Jones; Norma Bond; Eilleen Heisz; Freda Clement; Mrs. Lillian Reynolds; Mrs. Earl Reynolds (Principal); Charlie Steil; Don Ames; Evelyn Ames; Edna Paege; Helen Lausen; Chris Lausen. Front row: Dennis Nordvie; Harley Paege; Lynn Peatman; Anne Russell; Evelyn Norman; Verna Strahan; Patricia Wotherspoon; Shirley Glasner.



E. A. Bailey cutting grain on the Hendel place in 1912.



Hendel place 1912. The first house Baileys lived in. It was later moved to their farm and added on to. Ed Grice and wife in buggy.



A guaranteed meal and a warm home attained through a teenagers manpower. Henry Henrikson.



Four generations when Anna Larson was 89 (1961). May (Larson) Norman, Luella, Judy.



Gena Blomgren with her illegal hedge of hemp which aroused the weed inspectors, 1936.



Elizabeth and Thomas Ulyett, and Mr. Morgan.



Clement children. Dorothy, Winston, Vivian, Clifton and Kenneth.



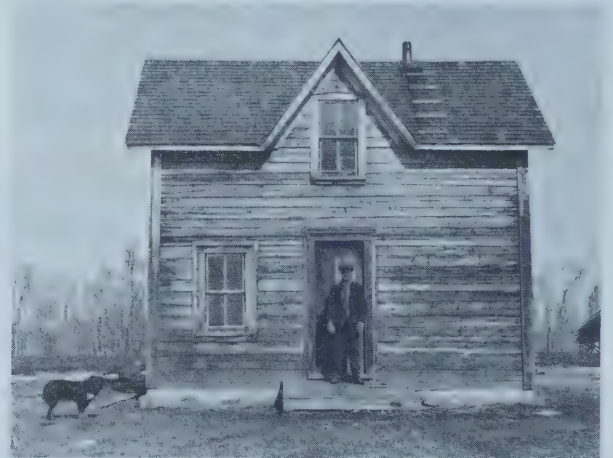
At the Petersons: Melvin Anderson, Edith Peterson, Margaret Paulson, Clara Skogstad, Lily Peterson.



Carl hauling logs — Spruce Coulee.



Ole Paulson with his oxen.



Nels Aspedokken homestead house.



Lars Larson and son Larry on a load of coal.

My Alberta Home (An Ode to Alberta)

Where the prairies roll in their boundless sweep,
And the chinook winds their rhythm keep,
To the onward march of conquering man,
Who builds his home in that wide, free land.

The wilderness blooms like a garden fair,
For men are building a nation there,
In town, in village and peaceful farm,
They build with zeal and with lusty arm.

See them come at the call of the golden west,
With high resolve in each earnest breast,
They cross the border, they cross the sea,
For here is health and prosperity.

The sun shines bright on that western plain,
O'er the meadows fair and the fields of grain,
That stretch afar till the view grows dim,
In that distant haze of the horizon's rim.

My new-found home! Oh, I love thee well,
Thy upland plain and thy wooded dell,
Thy lakes and rivers — but most I prize,
Thy balmy days and thy azure skies.

I love the peace of thy sunset glow,
When the crickets chirp and the birds sing low,
And the breezy call of thy early morn,
That stirs to action like a martial horn.

My country! Bright is the future in store for you,
Great are the things that men will do,
When all thy treasures shall lie revealed,
From mount and forest and open field.

—Ole A. Broughton

INDEX

Abrahamson, Mr. and Mrs. Peter	379	Barber, Del	499	Christians, Wm. and Tina family	327
Adair, James and Esther	465	Barnes, Harry	323	Christie, Norman	385
Adair, Violet Anderson	322	Barron, William	248	Clark, Jack	325
Adams, Pete	379	Batke, Albert	200	Clement, Gary	71
Adamson, Hilding	353	Baxter, Angelo	324	Clement, John	325
Albers, Anna Ellingson	155	Beckman, John	165	Clement, Henry	325
Albers, Gus	154	Beebe, Fraser	443	Clement, Rae Walker	325
Albers, John	154	Bennett, Mr.	381	Clement, Voleta Douglas	325
Albers, Nicolaus	152	Berg, Alfred and Cecilia	199	Clement, Wesley	305
Albers, Walter (see Nicolaus)	152	Bergstrom, Gus	354	Clement, Clifton	305
Albers, Daisy Halladay	152	Bergstrom, Seth	353	Clement, Dorothy Brown	305
Albright, Homer and Minnie	320	Bergum, Anna Vikse	298	Clement, Kenneth	305
Albright, Erman and Margaret	320	Bernard, Daniel	499	Clement, Vivian Mawer	305
Albright, Elna Bancroft Lutz	320	Bernard, Cyril	500	Clement, Winston	305
Albright, Doreen Hanchar	320	Bernard, John and Annie	324	Clouton, Eugene	443
Allen, Lorton	381	Berndt, Gordon	325	Cloviss, Hoyt	385
Allen, Truman and Amanda	420	BerVal Manufacturing	32	Collin, Harry	255
Allison, May Gilbert	55	Bethany Cemetery	192	Collin, Knute	254
Alveberg, Carrie (Stanvik)	193	Bethany Church	188	Collin, Doris Radke	254
Anderson, A. C.	380	Bethlehem Lutheran Congregation	149	Collin, Florence Johnson	254
Anderson, Alfred	244	Beugin, Adolph	381	Collin, Margaret Jones	254
Anderson, Arnold	321	Bjorge, Raymond family	155	Collin, Robert	254
Anderson, Arnt Richard	246	Blacksmiths	32	Collin Recollections	253
Anderson, Constance Odegard	247	Blady, Frank	200	Conibear, Harry family	104
Anderson, David	126	Block, Roger	464	Cook, Joe	203
Anderson, Donald	247	Blomgren, Albin	248	Cook, Jack and Eleanor	203
Anderson, Doreen Likeness	247	Blomgren, John	249	Cotterville, Mr.	385
Anderson, Edwin	246	Blouin, Clara Carlson	251	Coulee Ceramists Club	58
Anderson, Evelyn Rouche	246	Blouin, Foch	251	Cram, Richard	133
Anderson, Fred	353	Blouin, Helene Rostaing	252	Cram, Sid	133
Anderson, George	321	Blouin, Jack	252	Crawford, Robert	326
Anderson, Melvin	127	Blouin, Lorette Jones	251	Creighton, George and Nancy	307
Anderson, Ole	70	Blouin, Marcel	251	Cressman, Larry and Linda	327
Anderson, Olga Boyd	245	Blouin, Ovide	249		
Anderson, Roy	245	Blouin, Theresa Nichols	252	Dahl, Clarence and Hjordis	104
Anderson, Violet Adair	322	Bolding, Thorvold	503	Dahl, Gordon	104
Anderson, Wallace	247	Boulter, Leon	127	Dahl, Henry	104
Anderson, Walter	323	Brewster, John	482	Dahl, Lloyd	104
Anderson, Wilfred	246	Broughton, Ole	201	Dahl, Rodney	104
Andrews, George	380	Broughton, S. J.	252	Dahl, Shirley Salmon	104
Anonson, Martin	247	Brosinski, Leo	381	Dahl, Lars and Borghild	107
Arneberg, Carl and Kari	194	Bruce, Anna	500	Dahl, Bernice Lillemo	107
Arneberg, Olava Schiele Memories	196	Bruce, Lawrence	502	Dahl, Edna Lindstrom	107
Aspedokken, Halvor family	420	Bruno Brothers	381	Dahl, Elmer	107
Attfield, Gordon	143	Buena Vista School District	102	Dahl, Evelyn Uylett	107
Auctioneers and Cattlebuyers	29	Buckmaster, C. W.	104	Dahl, Harry	107
Awe, Herbert	482	Butchers	32	Dahl, Ida Carlson	107
		Butzer, Ben	381	Dahl, Irene Wilson	107
Badry, Alf	353			Dahl, Margaret Todd	107
Bailey, Butler and Helen	197	Camenish, Jake	382	Dahl, Myrtle Norman	107
Bailey, Elmer and Bertha	196	Cameron, Anna	305	Dahl, Theodore	107
Bailey, Orville and Ella	198	Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	30	Dahl, Martin	106
Baker, John and Isabelle	133	Carlson, Raymond, Pearl and family	71	Dahl, Morris family	107
Banta, Charles	441	Carlson, Theodore	167	Dahlin, Olf	143
Banta, Ray (see Charles)	441	Cartier, Omer and Elizabeth	383	Damberger, Max and Besse	482
Banta, Thompson Bowie	442	Casebeer, William	104	Damberger, Cortez	485
Barber, Fern	437	Casteline, Marcel	383	Damberger, Merle Koeller	487
Barber, Marvin	437	Cavenaugh, Patrick	104	Damberger, Pat Williams	487
Barber, William Mason	498	Centennial School	126	Davison, Arthur	327
Barber, Lide	498	Chalmers, Tom	384	Davison, Oscar	327
Barber, Lile	498	Chapman, Charles	354	Daw, Mr. and Mrs. Wm.	108
Barber, Elva Platz	499	Chaquette, Louis	384	Dempsey, James Story	72
Barber, Harold	499	Chick, Frank	385	Dempsey Memories	9
Barber, Bessie	499	Chinese Cafes	32	Dennis, Percy	170
Barber, John	499	Christians, William A.	327	Dennis, Stanley	170

Dennis, Ben	170	Ferry Point School District Teachers	151	Halseth, Norris	505
DeRooy, Arie and Clazina	299	Filiatreault, Leon	488	Halseth, Ross	505
DeWitt, C. W.	488	Fischbach, Emil	328	Halseth, Christian	504
Dickey, Samuel	444	Fischbach, Elaine Dockter	328	Halseth, Agnes Pickering	504
Dickey, Clara Loney	444	Fischbach, Dorothy Loughlean	329	Halseth, Conrad	505
Dickey, Lee	444	Fischbach, Gordon	330	Halseth, Louis	504
Dickey, Mabel Paulson	444	Fischbach, James	329	Halseth, Mabel Hestness	504
Dickey, Mattie Blaney	444	Fitzpatrick, Jerry and Minnie	307	Halseth, Minnie Quesseth	504
Dickey, Mike	444	Fitzpatrick, Verlie Steinhoff	307	Halseth, Nettie Dickey	504
Dickey, Roy	444	Fitzpatrick, Lola Proudly	307	Halseth, Walter	504
Doctors	36	Fitzpatrick, Ray	77	Halseth, Inga Paulson Halseth	504
Donalda Agricultural Society	18	Fitzpatrick, Lyle	76	Hammarberg, Andrew and Katherine	112
Donalda and Community Council	58	Flack, Samuel	330	Hammarberg, Agnes Bennett	112
Donalda Cemetery	56	Flack, Ethel McKay	330	Hammarberg, Anna Moore	112
Donalda Centennial Art Club	58	Flack, Linda	330	Hammarberg, Alma Rider	112
Donalda Coulee Friendship Club	59	Flack, Lula Pickup	330	Hammarberg, Astrid Rider	112
Donalda Council Meeting, re: museums	44	Flack, Mabel	330	Hammarberg, August	112
Donalda Country Stores	14	Flack, Nellie	330	Hammarberg, Eric	112
Donalda Creamery	33	Flack, Robert	330	Hammarberg, Olga Reay	112
Donalda Curling Club	60	Folven, Oscar	444	Hankins, Oscar	507
Donalda District Development Co. Ltd.	35	Franklin, Dean	78	Hardware Stores in Donalda	41
Donalda Feed Mill	39	Friberg, Gustaf	503	Hartman, Tony	389
Donalda Garages	39	Friberg, Oscar	503	Haugejorden-McLellan-Bell	134
Donalda General Stores	39	Fröbel, Casper	78	Haugseth, T. A.	158
Donalda Guild	61	Fostad, Boyd	144	Haugseth, Ingaborg	158
Donalda 4-H Dairy Club	60			Haugstad, Gilbert	260
Donalda Hotels	41	Gas Station	39	Hayes family	390
Donalda Klondike Nites	61	Gebhardt, Helmuth	331	Hazel Grove School	353
Donalda Newspapers	18	Gems of Yesteryear	69	Heape, Pete	445
Donalda School	51	Geology of Donalda and Vicinity	6	Hearonemus, Harry and Elizabeth	393
Donalda School Fair	55	Glen Park School	163	Hearonemus, Emma Trayer	393
Donalda Telephone Offices	47	Goodkey, James	203	Hearonemus, Lloyd	393
Donalda United Church	64	Goransrud, Lars and Gunhild Larson	425	Hearonemus, Nettie Johnstone	393
Duklet, Nils	155	Goransrud, Nels	425	Hearonemus, Jake and Agnes	394
Durand, William	355	Graf, John	309	Hearonemus, Alice	394
Dykstra family	385	Graf, Matilda Rake	309	Hearonemus, George	394
Dykstra, Robert	386	Graf, Lucy Holladay	309	Heater, Ed and Mary	110
		Graf, Henry	309	Heater, Jake	111
Eastwood, Sam	128	Graf, Frances Lucas Baird	309	Heater, Mabel Hutchinson	111
Edenloff, Nels Olaf	168	Graf, Anne Deans	309	Heater, Clyde	111
Edenloff, Clara Kelley	168	Graf, Ida Jones	309	Heater, Phyllis Johnson	111
Edenloff, Elsie Kyle	168	Graf, Elsie Anonson	309	Heater, Jacob	111
Edenloff, Florence	168	Graffunder and Pierson	355	Heater, Harold	111
Edenloff, Gladys Cole	168	Graham, Jesse	129	Heater, Milton	111
Edenloff, Harold	168	Graham, Jess R.	78	Heater, Mary Fitzpatrick	111
Edenloff, Hattie Vikse	168	Graves unmarked	165	Heater, Elmer	111
Edenloff, Mildred Patton	168	Gray, Charles	79	Heisz, Earl	331
Edenloff, Minnie McLean	168	Green, Ed Sr.	109	Heisz, John	332
Edenloff, Ruth Cherry	168	Green, Harry	110	Heisz, Roy	332
Edenloff, Walter	168	Green, Eddie Jr.	110	Helfer, Jesse	332, 446
Edwards, Ernest and Victoria	109	Green, Jean Lindstrom	110	Helfer, Lawrence and Estella	445
Eikeland, Thor, Martin and family	169	Green, Isobel Kerl	110	Henrikson, Christian and Betsy	136
Ekholm, Erna and Emil	74	Greenaway family	80	Henrikson, Alfred	136
Ekholm, Don and Ethel	74	Grice, Ed	80	Henrikson, Bernard	136
Ekholm and Anderson	75	Griffin, Rolly	81	Henrikson, Dagny Norman	136
Electricity in Donalda	36	Gulka, Myron and Brenda	81	Henrikson, Lilly Allenson	136
Elevators	38			Henrikson, Henry	138
Elliot, Alex	387	Hagan, Everett and Selma	157	Henke, Fred and Emma	332
Elliot, George and Bernice (see Tracy Hall)	387	Hagan, Esten	356	Henke, Albert	332
Ellis, Fred	386	Hagan, Jake and Gyda	256	Henke, Heinz	332
Emdee, Wm.	387	Hagan, John and Maria	259	Henke, Fred Jr.	332
Entertainment	20	Hagan, Lars E.	445	Hestness, Bernt	508
Erickson, Carl and Betsy	156	Hagan, Marcus	356	Hestness Story	446
Erickson, Annie Dyar	156	Hagan, Palmer and Berit	258	Hilde, Caroline Anderson	207, 246
Erickson, Ellen Holt	156	Hagan, Theodore and Carolina	257	Hilde, Stener A.	203
Erickson, Jennie Johnson	156	Haggerty, Don	389	Hilde, Albert	204
Erickson, Emil	109	Hall, Tracy and Susan	387	Hilde, Alfred	205
Erickson, Fred	75	Hall, Bill	387	Hilde, Andrew	206
Erickson, Clarence	75	Hall, Beth LaRose	387	Hilde, Clara Wiltke	206
Erickson, Elmer	75	Hall, Bernice and George Elliot	387	Hilde, Esther Johnson	206
Erickson, Olaf and Albin and Emma	488	Hall, Elaine McKay	387	Hilde, Geyhard	205
Erickson, Ben	488	Halseide-Saltveit	172	Hilde, Lila Anderson	207
Erickson, Harry	488	Halseide, Anna Collin	172	Hilde, Mabel	205
Ewing, Fred family	134	Halseide, Helen Holt	172	Hilde, Peter	205
		Halseide, Edna Radtke	172	Hilde, Selmer	205
Ferry Point Cemetery	150	Halseth, Conrad and Agnes	505	Hill, Charles	394
Ferry Point School	151	Halseth, Laverna Dahl	505	Hillaby, Bob and Deanie	447

Hillaby, Ron and Iona	448	Johnson, Doris Stolee	261	Kaufman, John	510
Hines, Dan	395	Johnson, Dorothy	261	Kaufman, Bill	510
Hjorth Family	78	Johnson, Inez Nelson	261	Kaufman, Ernest	510
Hoffman, Albin Julius	261	Johnson, Norman	261	Kaufman, Joe	510
Holder, Fred	395	Johnson, John O.	263	Kaufman, Mamie	510
Holladay, Wm. and Lily	129	Johnson, Bertha Gray	263	Klemme, William	489
Holladay, Bob and Lucy	129	Johnson, Ellen Lutz	263	Kline, Carl	338
Holladay, Eldon	129	Johnson, Elvin	263	Kneeland, Alice Gregorowick	265
Holladay, Dale	129	Johnson, Ida Bunch	263	Kneeland, Charles	269
Holladay, Diane Paege	129	Johnson, Joseph	263	Kneeland, Caroline Cronk	265
Holladay, Lucille Stanvick	129	Johnson, Julia Brown	263	Kneeland, Ervin Memories	265
Holladay, Lorne	129	Johnson, Laura Carter	263	Kneeland, Ervin and Catherine	266
Holladay, Judy MacDonald	129	Johnson, Olive McLeod	263	Kneeland, Gene	269
Hollingsworth	395	Johnson, Olga Davies	263	Kneeland, Hazel Kent	265
Holmquist, Gustaf	357	Johnson, Oscar	263	Kneeland, Len	264
Holmquist, Victor	357	Johnson, Jonas	175	Kneeland, Raymond	267
Holmquist, Hulda	357	Johnson, Alidia	175	Knudtson, Eilert	211
Holmquist, Folke	357	Johnson, Elmira	175	Knudtson, Irene Gabert	211
Holmquist, Erving	357	Johnson, Evelyn	175	Knudtson, Gordon	211
Howlett, George and Elizabeth	79	Johnson, Hazel	175	Knudtson, Hans	211
Hubble, Mrs.	333	Johnson, Lloyd	175	Knudtson, Janet Siegle	211
Hutterites, Donald Colony	448	Johnson, William	175	Knudtson, Kenneth	211
Huard Family	395	Johnson, Nils	263	Knudtson, Lorraine Seehagel	211
Ibsen Community Society	187	Johnson, Beda Halseide	263	Knudtson, Nancy Starling	211
Ibsen School District	186	Johnson, Benny	263	Knudtson, Sophie Gerlinger	211
Imbery, Ed	138	Johnson, Ernest	263	Knudtson, Gordon	213
In the Long Ago	1	Johnson, Hugo	263	Knudtson, Carol Gorsalitz	213
Ingvaldson, Nils	159	Johnson, Maria Gunderson	263	Knudtson, Corrine Roste	213
Iverson, Harvey	448	Johnson, Peter	209	Knudtson, Daniel	213
Jackson, Jack	139	Johnson, Anna Leboe	209	Knudtson, Dennis	213
Jacobson, Ole	207	Johnson, Gertrude	209	Knudtson, Lester	213
Jacobson, Betty Nordvie	141	Johnson, Henry	209	Knudtson, Robert	213
Jacobson, Oscar	208	Johnson, Helmer	209	Knudtson, Hans	212
Jacobson, Allen	208	Johnson, Helen Bailey	209	Knudtson, Allen	212
Jacobson, Arnold	208	Johnson, Jonas	209	Knudtson, Arthur	212
Jacobson, Betty	208	Johnson, Lars	209	Knudtson, Paul	212
Jacobson, Blake	208	Johnson, Martha Eikeland	209	Knudtson, Lois	212
Jacobson, Dorothy Raudebough	208	Johnson, Mathilda Westegarde	209	Knudtson, Kenneth	214
Jacobson, Gordon	208	Johnson, Victor	365	Knudtson, Norris	214
Jacobson, Lorna Zellwigger	208	Johnson, Eliis	365	Knudtson, Merril	214
Jacobson, Lyle	208	Jones, Allan	82	Knudtson, Lorne	214
Jacobson, Marjorie Steinhoff	208	Jones, Bert	333	Knudtson, Brenda Hanoski	214
Jacobson, Stanley	208	Jones, Charlie	489	Knudtson, Beverly	214
Jacobson, Sylvia Webster	208	Jones, Earl	335	Konschuh, David	338
Jacobson, Valerie Nelson	208	Jones, Doris Henke	335	Krumm, L. F.	114
Jensen, Mavis Vikse	296	Jones, Evelyn Smith	335	Kvemshagen, Edgar	269
Jerstad, Abraham	173	Jones, Heather Lang	335	LaForge, Ernie	177
Jerstad, Alma Braa	173	Jones, Irene Streberg	335	Lagore, Earl	395
Jerstad, Betsy Vikse	173	Jones, Inez Cloutier	335	Land Allocation	2
Jerstad, Clara Nepstad	173	Jones, Muriel Holladay	335	Large, J. A.	338
Jerstad, Ida Kolkind	173	Jones, Jesse	336	LaRose, George	396
Jerstad, Oscar	173	Jones, Arthur	336	LaRose, Edward	396
Jerstad, Sina Quesseth	173	Jones, Cyril	336	LaRose, Louie	396
Jerstad, Jens	175	Jones, Inez Tucker	336	Larson, Lars	427
Johanson, Seth	363	Jones, Floyd	336	Larson, Melvin	432
Johanson, Anna Sehlstrom	363	Jones, Conrad J.	334	Larson, Nels	427
Johanson, Arnie	363	Jones, Chester	334	Larson, Agna McLeod	434
Johanson, Audrey Lindberg	363	Jones, Clifford	334	Larson, Rebecca Barber	436
Johanson, Hildebrand	363	Jones, Earl	334	Larson, Susanna Sproule	436
Johanson, John	363	Jones, Edith McBride	334	Larson, Tony family	430
Johanson, Kenneth	363	Jones, Elmer	334	Larson, Carl	431
Johanson, Ranghild Bergstrom	363	Jones, Fay Raddis	334	Larson, Anna Warnke	431
Johnson, B. Carl	82	Jones, George	334	Larson, Clayton	431
Johnson, Bert and Judith	364	Jones, Harvey	334	Larson, George	431
Johnson, Lage	364	Jones, Sherman and Hazel	83	Larson, Gladys Ford	431
Johnson, Marvin	364	Jones, James	83	Larson, Henry	431
Johnson, Melvie Savage	364	Jones, Lavonne Browarny	83	Larson, Lloyd	431
Johnson, Mickey (Milton)	364	Jones, William	289	Larson, Luther	431
Johnson, Norma Oberg	364	Jones, Stanley	289	Larson, Melvin	431
Johnson, Sylvia Hunter	364	Jones, Violet	289	Latimers	338
Johnson, Chris	310	Jones, Willie	448	Lausen, C. P. family	83
Johnson, Henry	261	Judd, Louis	113	Lawrences	396
Johnson, Alice	261	Kahl, Dee	312	Lawson, Don and Beth	84
Johnson, Anne Marie Knudtson	261	Kahl, John	311	Lawson, John (Mardon Ranch)	358
Johnson, Clifford	261	Kahl, Alma McGarvie	311	Lawson, Miss Margaret	85
		Kahl, Cleo Yonkers	311	Layher, Charlie	215

Layher, Christine Bjorge	215	Matheson, Eddie	139	Nelson, August	117
Layher, Howard	215	Matheson, Janet	139	Nelson, Carl	141
Layher, Oscar	215	Matheson, Jim	139	Nelson, George and Delores	452
Leboe, Ole	177	Matheson, Ruth	139	Nighdis family	399
Ledbetter, Dad	397	Matheson, John	139	Nilson, Karl	117
Lee, Francis and Marion	115	Meredith, W. H.	339	Nixon, Dale	490
Lee, Bob	115	Meredith, Glen	339	Norblad, Nils	491
Lee, Dianne Conibear	115	Mitchenson, Joe	490	Norbo School District	236
Lee, Donald	115	Mitchenson, Tom	490	Norbo Reminiscences by Sam Steele	240
Lee, James	115	Mitchenson, Art	490	Norbo School	239
Lee, Pat Saunders	115	Miner, Albert	451	Nordvie-Jacobson	217
Lee, W. E. and Lottie	114	Mining Along the Meeting Creek and Battle River	418	Nordvie, Marvin	217
Lee, Alice Conibear	114	Minkler	398	Nordvie, Eldon	217
Lee, Florence Pool	114	Monson, Mons	89	Nordvie, Dennis	217
Lee, Francis	114	Monson, Henry	89	Nordvie, Eunice Webb	217
Lee, Lottie Hanson	114	Monson, Norman	89	Nordvie, Peter	141
Lee, Marjorie Heath	114	Monson, Margaret Jacobson	89	Nordvie, Palmer	141
Lee, Wilber	114	Montgomery, Gault	439	Nordvie, Clarence	141
Lewis, William	397	Montgomery, Lester	462	Nordvie, Vernon	141
Lickert, Derek	397	Moore, Oliver Perry	365	Nordvie, Olga Batke	141
Lien, Arthur and Jenny	178	Morgan, Emmanuel	117	Nordvie, Mildred Batke	141
Liesinger, Robert family	511	Morton, Charles	512	Nordvie, Beatrice (Stanvik) Hanson	141
Liesinger, Bill	511	Moult, William	365	Norman, Andrew	117
Liesinger, Ella Wood	511	Mouseproof Kitchen Cabinet	45	Norman, Ole and Maria	453
Liesinger, Elsie Wiltse	511	Mudry, Dan	217	Norman, Olaf Albin	454
Liesinger, Herman	511	Mueller, Herbert and Gerda	451	Norman, John	455
Liesinger, Louise Hankins	511	Murat, Henry E.	90	Norman, Oscar	456
Lingren, Petter	449	Murat, Clara Stone	90	Norman, Carl Gustav	456
Lindstrom, John	116	Murat, Ruby Odegard	90	Norman, Fred family	460
Lindstrom, Gerald	116	Murat, Aloyse	90	Norman, Robert	462
Lindstrom, Seth	116	Murat, Arthur	90	Norman, Gottfried family	452
Lindstrom, Donald	116	Murat, Betty Fjell	90	Norman, Olaf Albin	454
Lindstrom, Eunice Coley	116	Murat, Linda Filimeck	90	Norman, Ture	454
Lindstrom, Fred	116	Murat, Lily Dais	90	Norman, Doris	454
Lindstrom, Gust	116	Murat, Joyce Klien	90	Norman, Gordon	454
Lindstrom, Janet Ogsten	116	Murat, Vivian Halseth	90	Norman, Virgil	454
Lindstrom, Louise Fiske	116	Murphy, C. B.	490	Norman, Vernon	454
Lindstrom, Tore	116	MacLean, John and Esta	86	Norman, Oscar	454
Livery Barns	43	McBride	398	Norman, Vincent	454
Logan, Winfield	450	McBride, L. Bert	339	Norman, Sixten	454
Loney, Ludwig	130	McBride, Dorothy Richards	339	Norman, Emie	454
Loney, Clara Anderson	130	McBride, Nola Becker	339	Norman, John	455
Loney, Hilda Winter	130	McBride, Raymon	339	Norman, Agnes	455
Loney, May Brown	130	McBride, Marguerite Pickering	339	Norman, Aake	455
Loney, Justina	130	McBride, Ruth Buterman	339	Norman, Ragnar	455
Losie, J. E.	117	McAllister, Henry	398	Norman, Greta	455
Lumberyards	44	Maclary, Arthur	343	Norman, Sven	455
Lundell, Carl and Elna	179	MacDonald, Rod and Ruth	451	Norman, Ina	455
Lundell, Ulla Christensen	179	MacDonald, Judy Swaren	451	Norman, Violet	455
Lundell Family	179	MacDonald, Joan O'Brien	451	Norman, Gust	456
Lundell, Carl	179	MacDonald, Bill	451	Norman, Albert	456
Lundell, Robert	179	MacDonald, James	451	Norman, Alma Henrikson	456
Lundell, Wilhelm	179	McDougal, Roy and Dorothy	217	Norman, Bertha	456
Lundell, Berniece Bergstrom	179	McIntyre, Norris	88	Norman, Evert	456
Lund, Roy family	270	McIntyre, Walter family	512	Norman, Esther Adair	465
Lyle, Gordon	397	McKay, Colin and Ethel	340	Norman, Leo	456
Lyster, Argyll	339	McKay, Melissa Wright	340	Norman, Evelyn Pfeiffer	467
Lyster, Dale	339	McKay, Marjorie Waterman	340	Norman, Vivian Regnier	456
Lyster, Cathie Kruger	339	McKay, Flack	340	Norman, Sylvia Jones	456
Lyster, Karen Irvine	339	McKay, Helen Holmquist	340	Norman, Fred	460
Lyster, Susan	339	McKay, Bryan	340	Norman, Austin	460
Lyster, Linda Walstrom	339	McKay, David	341	Norman, Arnold	460
Mann, Alfred	397	McKay, James	341	Norman, Alrick	460
Manson, Pete	397	McKay, Hedley and Bertha	342	Norman, Ruth Komishke	460
Marshall, Keith	88	McKay, Donald	342	Norman, Ruben	460
Martin, August and Christina	180	McKay, Wallace	342	Norman, Elizabeth Montgomery	460
Martin, Ella Bailey	180	McKay, Herbert	342	Norman, Arnie	460
Martin, Enid Moe	180	McKay, Mysie Dermott	342	Norman, Verner	460
Martin, Leonard	180	McKeown, Frank	398	Norman, Astrid Campbell	460
Matheson, Ed and Margaret	139	McLellan, Howard	490	Norman, Gordon	454
Matheson, Meg Hunter	139	McLellan, Ross	490	Norman, Louise Block	464
Matheson, Bessie Gibson	139	McLellan, Andy	490	Norman, Kenneth	464
Matheson, Mary Rake	139	McLellan, Wilmer	490	Norman, Bernice Deitrich	465
Matheson, Elspeth McBeath	139	McLellan, Keith	490	Norman, Dwayne	465
Matheson, Edna Grant	139	McMurchey, Don and Cele	89	Norman, Lorraine Lychak	465
Matheson, William	139	McTaggart, Duncan	399	Norman, Neil	465
				Norman, Marilyn Compeau	465

Norman, Murray	465	Paulson, Joyce	430	Ramstad, Henry	130
Norman, Merle	465	Paulson, Hazel Sacharko	430	Ramstad, Alma Eastwood	130
Norman, Hjalmer	366	Paulson, Ronnie	430	Ramstad, Agnes Parker	130
Norman, Leona Schmitz	366	Paulson, Donald	430	Ramstad, Melvin	130
Norman, Marlene West	366	Pearce, Sam	367	Rasmussen, Randolph	470
Norman, Allan	366	Pearce, Sam's Girls	92	Rasmussen, Agnes Chalmers	470
Norman, Sven	399	Pearson, Oscar	218	Rasmussen, Palmer	470
		Pearson, John	218	Rasmussen, Ruby Danielson	470
Old Days by Elsie Nordvie	142	Pearson, David	218	Rasmussen, Mabel Barnes	470
Olstad, John	274	Peatman family	92	Rasmussen, Edith Curr	471
Olstad, Connie Shielke	274	Pederson, Alfred	93	Reminiscences by Astrid Rider	401
Olstad, Marlene Brausen	274	Pederson, Anton Lauritz	469	Repp, Walter	491
Olstad, Janice Schweer	274	Pederson, Gunda Hilker	469	Reynolds, Cleve	181
Olstad, Sharon Burkard	274	Pederson, Ole	469	Rider, Tom	399
Olstad, Marilyn McCarrol	274	Pederson, Carl	469	Rider, Tom Jr.	399
Olstad, Linda Benson	274	Pederson, Gudrun Rasmussen	469	Rider, Jack	399
Olstad, Shelley McCarrol	274	Pederson, Rachel Berquist	469	Rider, Oris	399
Olsen, Oscar E.	271	Pederson, Eveline Bowie	469	Rider, Vivian Forder	399
Olsen, Bertha Hanson	271	Pederson, Mildred Twitchell	469	Rider, Betty Olson	399
Olsen, Maxine Wudel	271	Pederson, Lily Lohner	469	Rider, Orlene Cire	399
Olsen, Geneva	271	Pederson, Nordahl	469	Rider, Percy	399
Olsen, Lenore Ganton	271	Pederson, Arnold	470	Rider, Ron	399
Olsen, Alma Jerstad	271	Pederson, Helga Rasmussen	470	Rider, Diana Hay	399
Olsen, Olivia Sutherland	271	Pederson, Edith Olsen	470	Rider, Gary	399
Olsen, Angus	271	Pellowe, Fred	399	Rider, Gail Schoff	399
Olsen, Geraldine Sorochan	271	Persson, Tycko	143	Rider, Dick	399
Olsen, Peter	272	Persson, Ove	143	Rider, Alfred	399
Olsen, Marion Anderson	272	Persson, Margot	143	Rider, Sherry Lowther	399
Olsen, Alpha Dubois	272	Persinger, George	118	Rider, Wayne	399
Olsen, Vila Larson	272	Persinger, Walter	118	Rider, Marge Zuelke	399
Olsen, Gerner	272	Physiography	7	Rider, William	402
Olsen, Melvin	273	Pickering, Mark	513	Rider, Edith Clovis	402
Olsen, Herman	272	Pickering, Wallace	344	Robbins family	347
Olsen, Walter	272	Pickering, Keith	344	Robinson, Bill	313
Olsen, Melvin	273	Pickering, Annie Miller	344	Robinson, Wm. Patton	96
Olsen, Eunice Batke	273	Pickering, Clarence	344	Rochon, Walter	368
Olsen, Ronald	273	Platz, Alvin	513	Rochon, Gordon	368
Olsen, Glenice	273	Platz, Lawrence	514	Rogutski, Mike	96
Olsen, Donna Neigum	273	Platz, Clifford	515	Rude, Alvin	159
Ordge, Jack family	118	Platz, Cecil	515		
Orr, Gordon	218	Platz, Virgil	515	Salmon, George	403
Otteson, Carsten and Lena	90	Platz, Goldie Christopherson	515	Salmon, Bruce	403
Otteson, Edna Paege	90	Platz, Gordon	515	Salmon, Alec	403
Otteson, James	90	Platz, John	515	Salmon, Aline LaRose	403
Otteson, Hortense Anderson	90	Platz, Frank	515	Salmon, Ruth	403
Otteson, Gordon	90	Platz, Fay Chudek	515	Salmon, Bunny Stickel	403
		Pontious, E. J.	347	Salmon, Frank	403
Paege, Henry	91	Poolrooms and Barbershops	46	Sallstrom, Leonard	118
Paege, Donna James	91	Poon, Jim	33	Saltvold, Don	181
Paege, Harley	91	Poon, Num, Norman, Wing	33	Saltvold, Dave	160
Paege, Anita Anderson	91	Poplar Grove School	304	Saltvold, Gullik	160
Paul, Everett	343	Porter, Wm. Earl	94	Science Mound Church	319
Paul, Judy Tucker	343	Porter, Winston	94	Science Mound Homesteaders	333
Paul, Wayne	343	Post Offices	11	Science Mound Community Club	320
Paul, Lloyd	343	Potter, Don and Esther	94	Science Mound Ladies Aid	319
Paul, Randy	343	Pound, James	491	Science Mound School	318
Paul, Susan Scott	343			Science Mound Telephone	320
Paul, David	343	Quesseth, Olaf and Minnie	516	School Memories by Evelyn Vikse	165
Paulson, Ole and Ragnhild	437	Quesseth, George	516	Schultz, Ferd	405
Paulson, Henry	437	Quesseth, Inez Gould	516	Seimers, Henry	119
Paulson, Irene Norman	437	Quesseth, Doris Coats	516	Seymours, Leonard Ervin	144
Paulson, Alice Norman	437	Quesseth, Raymond	516	Seymours, Martha Leboe	144
Paulson, Elaine Helfer	437	Quesseth, Louis	516	Sharkey, Don	406
Paulson, Diane Congdon	437	Quesseth, Florence Ramsbottom	516	Sharon Lutheran Church	67
Paulson, Joan Blouin	437	Quesseth, Phyllis Kroetch	516	Shea, Thomas family	282
Paulson, Rodney	437	Quesseth, Kenneth	518	Shea, Bill	282
Paulson, Lloyd	437	Quesseth, Nadine Mills	518	Shea, Reta	282
Paulson, Andrew	430	Quesseth, Sharon Warner	518	Shea, Anna LaRose	284
Paulson, Otto	430	Quesseth, Donna Williams	518	Shea, Mary Hogue	284
Paulson, Alleen Awe	430	Quesseth, DeWayne	518	Shea, Catherine Kneeland	282
Paulson, Louis	430	Quesseth, Karen	518	Shea, Doris O'Connor	284
Paulson, Gunhild	430	Quesseth, Debbie Maddex	518	Shea, Tommy Obie	283
Paulson, Rosie	430	Quesseth, Randy	518	Shea, Cecilia Tate	286
Paulson, Margaret Skogstad	430			Shea, Lawrence	284
Paulson, Nels	430	Radke, Norman	275	Shea, Patrick	284
Paulson, Minnie Montgomery	430	Rake, Dan	95	Shea Close Neighbors	284
Paulson, Ethel Ekholm	430	Ramstad, Emil	130	Shea School Days	284

Sheets, Shirley	31	Steinhoff, Ernest	493	Vikse, Annie Bergum	298
Sheppard, W. J.	313	Steinhoff, W.	491	Vikse, August	290
Shoemaker family	119	Steinhoff, W. C.	491	Vikse, Aleta Sherriff	290
Sideritsch, John	348	Steinhoff, Wm. (Bill)	493	Vikse, Lester	290
Sideritsch, Otto	348	Stenlund, Olaf and Lily	368	Vikse, Gordon	290
Sideritsch, Ray	348	Stenlund, Sadie Anderson	368	Vikse, Conrad	292
Sideritsch, Karl	348	Stenlund, Viva Murat	368	Vikse, Donald	292
Silverwhips	120	Stenlund, Ruby Bergstrom	368	Vikse, Charlotte McFarlane	292
Sjolie, P.	406	Stenlund, Evelyn Wagner	368	Vikse, Beatrice Kvemshagen	292
Sjostrom, Nels	182	Stenlund, Dennis	368	Vikse, Bernice Sogge	292
Sjostrom, Henry	182	Stenson, Earl	472	Vikse, Marion Rasmussen	292
Sjostrom, Leonard	182	Sterns, Charlie	406	Vikse, Ole Michael	292
Skene, John	97	Stewart, L. E.	121	Vikse, Evelyn McGibbon	292
Skogstad, Hans	472	Stolee, B. J.	277	Vikse, Orville	292
Skybo Church	375	Stolee, Jacob	279	Vikse, Francis	292
Skybo Clubs	376	Stolee, John Selmer	279	Vikse, Florence Hagen	292
Skybo District	376	Stolee, Mike	281	Vikse, Tom	230
Skybo Follow Up	412	Stowell, Claude and Edith	121	Village of Donalds	48
Skybo Hay	378	Strahan, Sam	348	Vlasak, Anton	527
Skybo Post Office	378	Strattons	521		
Skybo Recreation	378	Strom, Ed and John	472	Waggaby, Mr.	408
Skybo School	374	Suddaby, Ernest	98	Walker, Arthur and Lois	474
Smith, Andy and John	314	Summers, R. T. and Magwood	519	Wallace, H. W.	123
Smith, Charles Wm.	520	Swan, John	525	Ward, Jacob	408
Smith, Colin	491	Swan, N. J.	522	Warren Family	98
Smith, Joe	491	Swenson, Gullik	526	Warren, Trut	408
Smith, Ralph Elmer	131	Sydor, Mike	183	Watland, Ole	409
Smith, Robert T.	347			Weather	5
Snipstead, Kasper and Jenny	120	Tate, Percy	406	Westegard, Thomas	231
Solomonson, Hans	406	Tate, Ralph and Cecilia	286	Weidman, Arlene Vikse	298
Solomonson, Tom	97	Tate, Dennis	286	Westlund, Walter family	99
Solomonson, Walter	97	Tate, Bill	286	Whitehorn, Ellsworth	475
Solomonson, Dorothy Connets	97	Tellman, Jake	370	Whitehorn, George Edwin	476
Solomonson, Stanley	97	Thibreau, John	350	Whitford, Donald	410
Solomonson, Elnora Barber	97	Todd, Louise, Dan and Sam	407	Whitford, Sam	410
Solomonson, Doris Herrod	97	Trayer, Ben Sr. 2 stories	121, 406	Whitford, George	410
Solomonson, Muriel Ayers	97	Tucker, John	314	Whitford, Flora Chalmers	410
Solomonson, Bertha Herrod	97	Tucker, Nola Heater	314	Whitford, Margaret McKorester	410
Solomonson, Tommy	97	Tucker, Joe	314	Whitford, Helen Todd	410
Solomonson, Arthur	97	Tucker, June Boychuk	314	Whamond, Archie and Edna	233
Sorenson, Elvinous Thorvald	276	Tucker, Jewell Winters	314	Whamond family	232
Spruce Coulee Cemetery	417	Tucker, Melvin	315	Wickham, John	411
Spruce Coulee Community Club	415	Turkelson, Mr.	494	Wiggington, Wallace	350
Spruce Coulee Ladies Aid	416	Tveit, Hanna Stolee	279	Wilkinson, Story	476
Spruce Coulee School	413			Williams, Lawrence F.	123
Stacey, Ann Hoffman	275	U-Go Weavers	64	Williams, Laurie	123
Stanlake, Chester and Louise	348	Ullman, Ernest and Laura	494	Williams, Alfred	123
Stanvigs, Iver Pederson	221	Ullman, Fred	315	Williams, Bessie Fisher	123
Stanvik, Annie Johnson	220	Ulyett family	121	Williams, Violet Wardel	123
Stanvik, Bert	228	Up-To-Date Church	481	Williams, Joyce Langille	123
Stanvik, Rodney	230	Up-To-Date School	480	Willow Canyon Ski Club	63
Stanvik, Terry	230			Wilson family	124
Stanvik, Berty Lynn Vanderbrink	229	Valentine, Mr.	408	Wilson, Bob and Edith	315
Stanvick, John	226	Vallet, Benoit family	350	Wilson, Andrew	411
Stanvick, Leona Konschuh	226	Vallet, Jeanne Bernard	350	Wilson, Donald	411
Stanvick, Lloyd	226	Vallet, Joe	350	Wilson, Rita Williams	411
Stanvick, Lester	226	Vallet, Eugene	350	Wilson, Jean Prunkl	411
Stanvick, Loren	226	Vallet, Eugenie Dhenin	350	Wing, Leslie	299
Stanvick, Linda Jones	226	Van Blarcom family	144	Winter, Ernest (Dad)	370
Stanvik, Ole	223	Vanderbrink, Berty Lynn Stanvik	229	Winter, Jake and Elizabeth	350
Stanvik, Mabel	225	Vasey, G. R.	122	Winter, James and Lois	370
Stanvik, Alvin	230	Van Dyke, A. N.	122	Woods, Ed	147
Stanvik, Otto	227	Veterans Honor Roll	529	Wood, Frank and Ruth	527
Stanvik, Peder	219	Vikse, Jacob	288	Wood, Max and Willard	527
Stanvik, Simon	225	Vikse, Rev. Torkel	289		
Stanvik, Gary	225	Vikse, Rosenberg	289	Zimmer, August	411
Stanvik, Mathius	220	Vikse, Alfred	295	Zuelke, Frank	495
Station Agents and Section Men	46	Vikse, Mavis Jensen	296	Zuelke, Jake	495
Steinhoff, Allan	494	Vikse, Harvey	297		
		Vikse, Arlene Weidman	298		

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